Friday, November 21, 2008 • Vol. 23 / No. 347 www.inquirer.net

WORLD / A26
US carmakers' $25-B rescue plan stalls in Senate

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED N[illegible]LESS VIEWS

LIFESTYLE / D1
Designer bags new heirloom; women resell them for fast cash

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE Children displaced by the ongoing armed conflict in Mindanao hang postcards with peace messages inside the "Kindling Bakal Peace Helicopter" during the launch of "Pulpalutan," an outside art installation project of Museo Pambata on Roxas Boulevard. It also features a peace playground, a developmental peace-themed play space. [illegible]

Mikey leads Con-ass bid

GLOBAL CRISIS

US Fed sees prolonged recession

LONDON—GLOBAL ECONOMIC misery spread on Thursday with the Federal Reserve predicting a US recession well into 2009, Japan's exports slumping for the first time in seven years, companies cutting more jobs and investors dumping stocks.

The deepening worldwide downturn also saw the International Monetary Fund (IMF) leading a $10.2-billion rescue package for Iceland. The financial institution was likewise set to make as much as $40 billion available to cash-strapped Turkey.

Prospects, however, faded for a $25-billion bailout of America's three beleaguered automakers—General Motors, Ford and Chrysler. (See story in The World, Page A26)

General Motors underlined its troubles by announcing a two-month production shutdown in Thailand. In Japan, Isuzu Motors said it would lay off 1,400 contract workers—the latest in a slew of massive job cuts by Japanese automakers.

The French carmaker, PSA Peugeot Citroen, also said it would cut 2,700 jobs. Rolfe

[illegible] PAGE A10

2 women vendors win Citi awards

By Doris C. Dumlao

NO HUMBLE IS TOO SMALL to lift the poor out of poverty, inspire the community and become diversified in a challenging environment, as shown by the top winners of the 2008 Citi Microentrepreneur of the Year Awards (MOTY).

Rizelo Lagunsad of Tacloban City started as a peddler of linen, flipperwares and Natasha products to augment meager household income. She now owns a retail store and an [illegible] A21

Traders see gloomiest Christmas since 2001

By Doris C. Dumlao

THIS MAY TURN OUT TO BE the gloomiest Christmas holiday season since the Philippines was gripped by political turmoil after the ouster of Joseph Estrada in 2001.

Amid a global economic crisis, businessmen in the country are expecting the worst fourth quarter in seven years, according to the latest quarterly business confidence survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

For the fourth quarter, the confidence index stood at -6.8 percent, defying the usually buoyant Christmas season. However, the index improved from the -12.9 percent index in the third quarter at the peak of the Wall Street shakeout that saw the collapse of investment banking giant Lehman Brothers, the fire-sale of Merrill Lynch and the near-bankruptcy of insurance giant AIG.

"It's slightly higher compared to last quarter although the index remained negative," Bangko Sentral Director Diwata Nath Sicat said at a press briefing yesterday.

The improvement this fourth quarter was due to the softening of oil prices, expectations of higher demand during the [illegible] TRADERS A11

A DEVOTEE...no doubt, in search of greener pastures presses a passport on the glass enclosing the miraculous image of the Mother of Perpetual Help (inset) at her shrine in Baclaran. [illegible]

Poll says most Filipinos expect hard times in '09

MOST FILIPINOS (67 PERCENT) expect the quality of life of their countrymen to deteriorate in the coming year, when the global economy is expected to slip into recession, results of a survey conducted last month showed.

"Both at the personal and national levels," 44 percent of the respondents said they were expecting their quality of life next year to be worse than now, according to Pulse Asia.

About half of Filipinos (49 percent) believe that the current US financial crisis "may have a great impact" on the Philippine economy.

Most of them feel the crisis would have "disastrous consequences" for Filipinos in general (78 percent) and for their own families (63 percent), Pulse Asia said yesterday in a statement.

Big Market businessmen believe that the Philippine economy will slide into recession next year and the unemployment rate to shoot up, but Philippine government officials expect a slowdown.

The survey was conducted [illegible] POLL A6

150 solons have signed Cha-cha resolution

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A MOVE TO AMEND the Constitution is gathering steam in the House of Representatives with President Macapagal-Arroyo's eldest son leading a signature drive to convene a constituent assembly (Con-ass) that would likely keep her in power beyond 2010.

Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo's campaign has secured between 120 and 150 signatures on a resolution calling on the Senate and the House to amend the 1987 Constitution by voting jointly and not separately, according to Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr.

"I was approached by Congressman Mikey last week when I just arrived at the session hall. He requested that I sign and when I looked at the papers, this [illegible] MIKEY A13

'When life gives you lemons...'

By Aurelita Santos
Contributor

(Editor's Note: Times are tough. You know it. I know it. We're going through it. It's time to do something. Now. And quick. The Inquirer proposes how—for every aspect of your life. Let us know about the measures you are taking to get you through the rough times. If we are together, we can tough it out. Send suggestions to [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph)

Project Editor Joan V. Bantegui Jr.

I AM A 46-YEAR-OLD MOTHER of four—three girls and a boy aged 12 to 19. Our family used to own a livestock farm and a trucking company that went bankrupt almost simultaneously when the two older girls were still graders in a Montessori school.

As a consequence, the children had to stop school. And my delinquency to payments caused the forfeiture of all eight [illegible] A21

Senate shakeup confuses Lapid; senators amused

By Christine O. Avendaño

PERHAPS HE THOUGHT HE WAS responding to the roll call?

Sen. Lito Lapid, a known ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, appears to be quite confused by the sudden change in leadership and the subsequent alliances in the Senate.

In the four days since the coup [illegible] SENATE A13

Colombian gets first windpipe transplant with stem cells

LONDON—A COLOMBIAN WOMAN has received the world's first tailor-made tracheo transplant, grown by seeding a donor organ with her own stem cells to prevent her body rejecting it, an international research team reported on Wednesday.

The success of the operation, performed in June, using tissue generated from the woman's own bone marrow, raises the prospect that transplanting other organs may be possible without drugs to dampen the immune system, according to the researchers.

Doctors work hand in match tissue type when transplanting organs so that the body does not completely reject the new organ, but patients usually have to take immunosuppressants for the rest of their lives.

"The probability this lady will have a rejection is almost zero percent," Dr. Paolo Macchiarini, head of thoracic [illegible] COLOMBIAN A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Some cloudy skies with occasional rain showers

Manila	Partly Cloudy	Baguio	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Iba	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Puerto Princesa	Mostly Cloudy
Kalibo	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

E-mail: [illegible]

SIX DIGIT

8	3	8	6	7	0	6

SUERTRES

9	4	9

4D

36	38	11	28

1	4	7

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

19	36	25	37	41	47

P82,987,462.80

Erap ploy: 'Divide and rule'

Ex-President getting set to run again, say Villar ally

By Christine F. Esguerra and Dona Pazybayan

CONVICTED PLUNDERER EX-PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada is using "divide and rule" tactics to split the already diminished political opposition in order to position himself for another presidential run in 2010, according to allies of Sen. Manuel Villar, who was ousted as Senate President earlier this week.

"Erap is pushing the final touches on his bid to return to Malacañang," said Gilbert Remulla, the spokesperson of the Nacionalista Party, which is headed by Villar.

"After managing to execute as a top contender in the [Estrada] turnaround the ousted from the Senate presidency of Manny Villar, another top contender for the presidency," Remulla said.

Not convinced

The Villar camp does not believe the claim by the group that replaced Villar with Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile as the new Senate President that Estrada had nothing to do with the Senate coup.

"Instead of being a uniting force, Erap is using the divide and conquer tactic for the return of redemption," Remulla said.

Enrile told the Philippine Inquirer on Nov. 10 (yesterday) assuring that he would run for President again if the opposition fails to unite around a common candidate.

"He knows fully well that with all the rival ambitions, it is virtually impossible to discover a single candidate for President...leaving him no choice," Remulla said.

Senate Secretary Raul Gonzalez also believes that Estrada is determined to run again and is just using the lack of a common opposition candidate as an excuse.

But he said Estrada is barred by the Constitution from running for President again as he has already served as President for two years.

"He is not qualified to run because the Constitution [prohibits] any one who has served as President for two years. He cannot run in any other election. Under the Constitution he has finished his term by the fact that he was ousted after more than two years," he said.

Estrada, who was ousted in a military-backed people power uprising in 2001, was convicted for plunder in 2007 but was immediately pardoned by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, thereby escaping the 40-year jail sentence he had received.

Uncertain

But Gonzalez did not sound too sure about whether the executive pardon for Estrada included a condition that bars the disgraced leader from running for President again.

"But I don't think we should be concerned with that. We should be concerned about what the Constitution says," he said.

He also said the executive pardon cannot be withdrawn.

The question of the legality of an Estrada candidacy was tipped in the interviews of candidates for Supreme Court justice yesterday.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno, who chairs the Judicial and Bar Council recommending body, asked Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, one of 16 candidates in consideration, if Estrada would be violating the Constitution if he runs again.

"One of the commissioners [made to the executive pandesal to Ilan Estrada will not run for the presidency," Devanadera said.

Ethics probe on Villar to continue, says Enrile

NOT BEING ONE TO "COVER UP THE sins of anyone," Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday said the Senate will push on with an ethics complaint against Sen. ousted predecessor, Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. over the controversial C5 road extension project.

He said Sen. Pemfilo Lacson would be chairing the ethics committee that is handling the complaint.

It was Lacson who exposed the double appropriation for P300 million road extension project in the 2008 national budget that Villar later admitted to have requested additional funding for his district engineering.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel filed the ethics complaint against Villar last month, accusing the then Senate President of conflict of interest, failure to divest interest and double-talk, dishonesty and shameless double standard.

Madrigal claimed that Villar's real estate empire benefited from the construction of the C5 road extension in Taguig.

Interviewed by dzMM radio, Enrile said the Senate will take conclusion with the inquiries pending before the chamber, including the "more grievous" controversy, the P728 alleged fertilizer fund scam and the C5 extension project.

"I am not going to cover up for anybody," Enrile said.

He said the Villar case would continue because it has already been referred to the ethics committee.

"But like it or not going to cover up for anyone of you, if they are guilty, if they have committed any violations of the laws or violation of acceptable conduct in accordance of the Senate, they have to answer to the people and to the institution," he said.

VILLAR

But he said Villar "will be given every opportunity to defend himself."

Enrile said the ethics committee chairmanship was a job that no one in the chamber normally wanted but which Lacson has volunteered to head.

Told that Lacson had implicated Villar in the C5 road extension project controversy, Enrile said: "If so, whoever will handle it will be guided by the rules of the Senate."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who like Villar is now in the new minority, told Lacson should inhibit himself over his committee investigation the ethics complaint against Villar.

"Dapat Sen. Lacson inhibit himself when he was a member of the Senate ethics committee? If he's clean, he should all the more inhibit himself, to be consistent, unless he has a different stand now," he said. — Christine D. Avendaño

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- Lyn Ching-Pascual

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- Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez

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Be a hero, impeach backers urge JDV

By Leila B. Salaverria

WITH ALL THAT HE KNOWS ABOUT HER, former Speaker Jose de Venecia could be the "hero" of the latest impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo if he decides to talk, the sponsors of the complaint said yesterday.

The endorsers are scheduled to present their case for impeachment on Monday when, they said, they expect De Venecia to provide his input on the allegations against the President.

On Tuesday, congressmen allied with Mrs Arroyo are set to defend her.

Voicing confidence of substance of the complaint may begin on Wednesday and the impeachment would either meet its death or move on to preliminary investigation there.

"By Wednesday, we will know if the impeachment will pass or not," said Quezon City Rep. Winnie Castelo, House justice committee chair, at the Sto Tomas town forum in Quezon City.

Dr. Venecia's statement will be "crucial" to the impeachment complaint, according to Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño.

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Dureza: I goofed

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO could comment it "leave to judgment," why couldn't he?

Press Secretary Jesse Dureza yesterday tried to explain away a gaffe he committed while saying a prayer in Malacañang by borrowing the line by Associated Press photographer Jerome Delay during the 2004 presidential election.

"Well, it looks like a typo in judgment," he said in an interview over DWIZ. "I was so sorry ... that's why I apologized to the President."

Dureza admitted that Mrs Arroyo was "very angry" over his opening prayers to start the Cabinet meeting last Tuesday in Malacañang.

What particularly set her temper off was the line: "Bless the President so she will have the forbearance, good health, tolerance in hard times, patience in 20 B's and (perhaps, who) knows, even luyahan."

Dureza acknowledged that his prayer inadvertently invited fresh criticisms of Mr Arroyo. Absence of

DUREZA

Duterte blunder, opponents have accused the President of floating the idea of a term extension through constitutional amendment.

"The President is really very angry, so tell you the truth," he said.

"What is happening is that instead of calm attending me, they're attacking her. Ironically, I should be the one defending her, but it seem I who had given her critics the ammunition to assail her."

Dureza was not available for a press briefing yesterday. Deputy Spokesperson Anthony Golez Jr. said on questions on the Monday

Asked if Dureza's apology was good enough for his damage, he replied: "He has done the right thing which was to apologize. It's time to move on."

Opposition figures were quick to jump at the Dureza gaffe, with Sen. Francis Escudero describing the prayer as just cheesy — a trivial matter — on Malacañang's plan to control the Arroyo exit.

The head of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, a staunch supporter of Mr Arroyo, yesterday said he was in favor of allowing her to stay in power even after her term expired in 2010.

"Many among municipal mayors all over the country share my sentiment," Uldarico Ramon Cedro of Bacnotan, Pangasinan told the resource in a phone interview. "She is probably the most hardworking president we've ever had."

Golez said he had raised the issue of Dureza's mangle with Ms Arroyo once a member of secularists, the next recent of which was two months ago.

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Razon: I approved Russian trip, but . . .

By Alexis Pape

FORMER PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police (PNP) Chief Avelino Razon yesterday maintained that there was nothing irregular in his approval of the trip of top police officers to an Interpol conference in Russia last October, where they were treated at the airport to the illegally carrying 183,000 euros.

"Everything was above-board. There is nothing irregular or sinister in my approval," Razon said.

He added that the conference was important for the PNP in terms of police training, operations, investigation and exchange of information on transnational crime and terrorism.

Razon said that on Aug. 27, he approved the trip for the eight-member PNP delegation to the 77th Interpol General Assembly in St. Petersburg, Russia scheduled for Oct. 6 to Oct. 15. The approval was based on a recommendation of Dir. Romeo Ricardo, head of the PNP Directorate for Plans and one of the generals who came along on the trip.

He said he approved only a P2.3-million budget for the eight officers and endorsed the request to Secretary Ronaldo Puno of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG).

He disavowed any knowledge of a disbursement for any other amount besides the P2.3 million.

"My approval is not the issue here. If they brought along large amounts of money beyond what is allowed by Customs, that is their responsibility. I had nothing to do with whatever excess amount/s that was not theirs."

He also noted that the trip was approved by the office of the present PNP Chief Dir. Gen. Jesus Verzosa, who was at the time PNP Deputy Chief for Administration.

The trip, he said, was approved "subject to rules and regulations" according to the usual travel of PNP officers.

The eight-member delegation included former PNP Comptroller Elias dela Paz, retired Gen. Jaime Caringal, Deputy Director Generals Emmanuel Carta and Ismael Subinay, Directors Rosario, Silverio Alanzo and Gresmen Bonla, and Insp. Ishmi Pelobello.

On Oct. 11, Dela Paz and his wife Maelle were stopped at the Moscow airport after it was discovered they were carrying 183,000 Euros, or around P13 million, an amount well beyond the limit set for travelers.

Razon also said the arrests of the generals were not included in the approved list and spent their own funds for the trip.

In a radio interview yesterday, Razon also said it was "optional and dependning on circumstances" for others to tag along on conferences. He also said his wife Cecille joined two of four such trips.

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Abus fire on US troops

THE US EMBASSY in the Philippines says American troops traveling in a Philippine Army convoy came under fire from suspected Abubkar militants on Jolo Island, but there were no casualties.

US Embassy spokesperson Bo Barrows Thompson said the incident happened on Tuesday and that the US military vehicle was part of the logistics mission.

Philippine police said a militant believed to be from the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group was killed in the clash. Police say on Abu Sayyaf chief Khadafy Janjalani and his brother-in-law Abu Sulaiman were among the casualties.

Several dozen US troops are stationed on Jolo to provide humanitarian assistance to civilians as well as counterterrorism support to Philippine forces battling the militants. AP

Noli: GMA will step down in 2010

By TJ Burgonio

SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY Esperanza Cabral said Monday that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo is serious about stepping down when her term ends in June 2010, and is steering clear of any move to extend her term.

"I believe she's stepping down," Ms Cabral said, who is reportedly being groomed as the administration's standard-bearer in the 2010 presidential elections, said yesterday. "She has served nine years and she has proved her worth."

He added: "She will follow the Constitution. The support for Charter change is another matter. But it doesn't mean she will stay in power."

Ms Cabral spoke at the Carbon-Cutting Congress on Climate Change in Makati, where he outlined the government's actions to address the impact of a warming climate on the country, such as the rise in sea levels.

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza's wishful prayer for a longer stay in power of the President at last Sunday's Cabinet meeting has set off speculations that Malacañang was keen on extending her term beyond 2010.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita tried to scotch the speculations by saying that the President would step down in 2010, and distance herself from any move to amend the Constitution to extend her term.

Dureza had apologized for the prayer, but insisted it wasn't a pitch for Charter change.

Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Presidential Adviser on Global Warming and Climate Change and vice president of the Lakas administration party, agreed with De Castro.

Proof that the President was quitting office in 2010 was the economic program which the administration crafted to serve as her legacy, he said.

She wants her husband back for X'mas

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A HUSBAND SAFE AND HOME FOR Christmas.

This is what Mitsuki Cayanayo wants on top of her holiday wish list.

Cayanayo's husband, Pfcc Lt. Maximo Cayanayo, was abducted by communist rebels on Jan. 7 in Compostela Valley almost two weeks ago.

As Camp Aguinaldo personnel scour the area to search for Cayanayo, Mitsuki made this tearful plea: "I am appealing to the people who are now holding my husband to please release him immediately. Let my husband's freedom be their Christmas gift to me."

The military has said that Cayanayo, company commander of the Scout's 11th Special Forces Company of the 1st Special Service, was being held by rebels at the end of a two-day encounter in Sitio Anagnan in Mawab, town.

It added that the New People's Army initially denied holding Cayanayo in captivity but later confirmed it after witnesses said they saw an undetermined number of NPA rebels holding and handcuffing Cayanayo.

AFP won't negotiate

The Philippine Army on Monday appealed to the soldier's immediate release, but said it would not negotiate for his freedom.

AFP spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres had earlier said that the military had either "overcome" or ensure the rescue of Cayanayo safely. "But we will never negotiate with terrorists," he added. "We are, of course, giving a high premium to Lt. Cayanayo's safety in the conduct of our operations, but this will not stop us from going after those who are responsible for the attack."

Cayanayo's family, including his mother and brother met with Teodoro upon the advice of Special Forces Headquarters, Mitsuki said. Teodoro had assured her that the military would "do everything" to bring back Cayanayo to his family without delay, she added.

Mitsuki, who is six months pregnant, also asked the NPA to treat her husband well. Cayanayo was reported wounded in the encounter.

"I know you have a heart and I hope you understand that it is very difficult to be pregnant without your husband by your side," she said in an appeal to Cayanayo's abductors.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, November 21, 2008
33rd Week in Ordinary Time
Presentation of Mary

1st Reading: Rev 18:9-11
Gospel: Lk 19:41-44

Jesus entered the Temple area and began to drive out the merchants. And he said to them, "Good was in the Scriptures: My house shall be a house of prayer but you have turned it into a den of robbers."

Jesus was preaching every day in the Temple. The chief priests and teachers of the law wanted to kill him and the elders of the Jews as well, but they were unable to do anything, for all the people were listening to him and hanging on his words.

Commentary

The presence of merchants in the Temple was not unusual. They sold the birds (doves) that would be sacrificed, and changed pagan money into currency suitable for the Temple tax. Jesus drives them out on account of zeal for the House of the Lord of the Temple. He will offer the perfect sacrifice of His Body and Blood, the sacrifice that would obtain the forgiveness of sins once and for all.

A sacrifice needs a priest and a victim. On the altar of the cross Christ is both (the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world).

Christian Communications Foundation, Inc. 4 Bonanza St. Off Wilson, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, Philippines. Tel. Nos. (632) 721-7741 to 49 Fax No. (632) 724-0141 E-mail address: ccfi@pacific.net.ph Website: http://www.dailygospel.com Compiled by Christian Ministries in the Philippines (Christian Biblical Ecumenical Association, Inc.) Chairman: MSGR. CEFERINO A. FLORES, D.D. Vice Chairman: Rev. Fr. Jose Ma. Cantera, CSP Secretary: Rev. Fr. Gerardo Santos, CSP Treasurer: Mr. Rodolfo Chua Jr. Contact us: ccfi@pacific.net.ph

Poll says most Filipinos expect hard times in '09

From page A1

from Oct. 14 to Oct. 27, using face-to-face interviews with a multistage probability sample of 1,200 adults. It had a margin of error of plus-minus three percentage points.

US financial crisis

The survey found that most Filipinos (69 percent) were aware of the US financial crisis. Across areas and classes, awareness of the US crisis ranged from 55 percent to 98 percent.

Among those who were aware, big majorities (65 percent to 75 percent) across all areas and classes believed that the crisis may have a great impact on the Philippine economy.

Those who believe the US crisis would be disastrous for most Filipinos range from 76 percent to 83 percent, while those who believe it would have adverse repercussions for their own families range from 53 percent to 69 percent.

Gainers, losers

The survey asked respondents to complete the following sentence: "Compared to the past 12 months, can you say that your way of life now is ..." and "Compared to the past 12 months, can you say that the way of life of most Filipinos now is ..." and were asked to choose from the responses, "better now," "same as then" and "worse now."

Those who answered "better now" were referred to as "gainers," while those who answered "worse now" were referred to as "losers."

The nationwide survey in October found that compared with the previous month, fewer Filipinos now consider themselves to be losers—from 70 percent to 58 percent, a decrease of 17 percentage points.

Pessimism in terms of their personal quality of life in the coming year also declined from 64 percent in July, to 44 percent in October.

Pessimism about the quality of life of most Filipinos in the year ahead likewise dropped from 79 percent to 67 percent.

Pulse Asia also noted a rise in public optimism regarding quality of life in 2009, both at the personal and national level, especially in Metro Manila and among members of Class ABC.

2 in 5 losers

Still, about three in every five Filipinos (58 percent) consider themselves "losers," while about three in every four (76 percent) think that most Filipinos are also "losers" now compared to a year ago.

Pulse Asia said there was "hardly any movement" in the national quality of life this year compared with last year. The percentage of those who think that most Filipinos are losers went down from 84 percent in July to 79 percent in October.

The survey also found that "a big majority" of Filipinos (79 percent) considered the national economy to have deteriorated in the past three years, but also noted a decline in the percentages of Filipinos saying the national economic situation "is worse now than in 2005," from 66 percent in July.

"Among the majority saying the state of the national economy has worsened in the past three years, 77 percent strongly felt, 21 percent somewhat felt and only 2 percent did not feel the impact of this deterioration on their own lives," Pulse Asia said.

Worse off now

Asked to compare their personal quality of life today with the previous year, 58 percent said they were worse off now, while 28 percent said it was the "same as then" and 14 percent said their life was "better now."

Majorities across all areas and socioeconomic classes (from 52 percent in Luzon outside Metro Manila to 73 percent in Mindanao) also saw themselves as "losers."

Asked about the quality of life today of the majority of Filipinos compared with the previous year, 70 percent said most Filipinos were worse off now, 18 percent said their lives were the same as then, while only 6 percent said the lives of most Filipinos were better.

Big to overwhelming majorities (from 71 percent to 90 percent) in all geographic areas and socioeconomic classes consider most Filipinos losers.

In terms of their expected change in their personal quality of life, 44 percent are pessimistic, 33 percent expect no change, while 22 percent are optimistic about the year ahead.

Pessimism in Mindanao

Pessimism on the year ahead at the personal level is most pronounced in Mindanao (61 percent), while the level of personal pessimism in the Visayas (55 percent) is also higher than the national figure.

In contrast, pessimism is least manifest in Metro Manila (28 percent), whose optimism is also at 34 percent.

However, Pulse Asia also noted "a rise in levels of public optimism" regarding their personal quality of life—from 12 percent to 22 percent—as well as a drop in levels of public pessimism (from 64 percent to 44 percent) between the months of July and October.

"Pessimism becomes less pronounced across all geographic areas and socioeconomic classes during this period," Pulse Asia said.

Pessimism about the quality of life of most Filipinos in the year ahead is at 67 percent, while those expecting life for most Filipinos to be unchanged is at 24 percent. Only 8 percent are optimistic that the national quality of life would be better next year.

Metro Manila most optimistic

This pessimistic outlook is expressed by majorities across all areas and classes (from 55 percent in Metro Manila to 81 percent in Mindanao). On the other hand, those most optimistic are in Metro Manila (36 percent) and in Classes ABC (16 percent), while optimism is least pronounced in Mindanao (4 percent).

However, as with expectations on their personal quality of life in the coming year, public pessimism about the national quality of life next year likewise declined in almost all areas and classes since July, the survey also showed.

Levels of optimism regarding the lives of most Filipinos in the year ahead also went up in Metro Manila (from 5 percent to 16 percent) and among Classes ABC (from 4 percent to 16 percent) between July and October. *Kimi Robinos, Inquirer Research*

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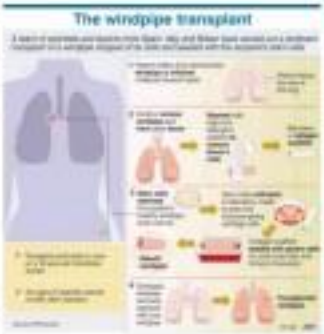
BY THIS (JN)AUGUST photo released by Hospital Clinic on Tuesday, Claudia Castillo, Louise Cube recipient of a windpipe transplant which used tissue grown from her own stem cells, poses with her children in Barcelona, Spain.



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Colombian . . .

From page A1

surgery at Hospital Clinic in Barcelona who performed the transplant, told a news conference.

"The patient is enjoying a normal life with no signs of rejection after four months," Macchiarini said.

Claudia Castillo sought help after a case of tuberculosis destroyed part of her trachea—the windpipe connected to the lungs—and left her with breathing difficulties, prone to infections and unable to exercise her two children.

The 30-year-old woman's only option other than the experimental surgery was for doctors to remove part of her lung—a choice that would have seriously degraded her quality of life, the researchers said.

"It just had an impact on her life, it is an impact of quality of life," said Martin Birchall, a surgeon at The University of Bristol, who helped treat Castillo.

Hybrid organ

After finding a donor, the researchers first depleted the transplanted trachea of the donor's cells and then obtained bone marrow stem cells from Castillo, which they grew into cartilage cells.

Next, the team seeded those cells on the outside of the donor's trachea using a device developed at Milan Polytechnic in Italy that incubated the cells. The researchers used the same device to make epithelial cells to construct the lining of the trachea.

This created a hybrid organ in a lab that Castillo's body would identify as its own and make immunosuppressant drugs unnecessary, the researchers said.

Finally, the team grafted a 5-centimeter (1.97-inch) piece of the trachea onto Castillo's damaged left bronchus (tube), which connects the main windpipe to the left lung.

Castillo, a mother of two who lives in Spain, had no complications from the surgery and left the hospital after 10 days. She has resumed normal activities and even called her doctors from a night club to say she had been out dancing all night, the researchers said.

New age in surgical care

"We believe this success has proved we are on the verge of a new age in surgical care," said Birchall, who predicted the technique could be applied to other hollow organs similar in structure, such as the bowel, bladder and reproductive tract.

Birchall thought there were 5,000 people across Europe who could benefit from the procedure. If the transplant technique is refined to include the voice box, tens of thousands of people might be suitable, he said.

People who might benefit include children born with defective airways, people with cancer or tumors in their windpipes, and those with collapsed windpipes.

"This technique has great promise," said Dr. Eric Genden, who did a similar transplant in 2005, at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York. That operation used both donor and recipient tissue. Only a handful of windpipe or trachea transplants have ever been done.

Genden was not involved in the European research, and said that if successful, the procedure could become a new standard of treatment.

'Time will tell'

"They have created a functional, biological structure that can't be rejected," said Dr. Allen Blitz of the American Society of Transplantation. "It's an important advance, but counseling an entire organ is still tough to sell."

Genden said that Castillo's progress needed to be closely monitored. "Time will tell if this lasts," he said.

Genden added that it could take up to three years to close the windpipe's cartilage rings—two were relied on—and will not split.

"Patients experiencing their own tissues in the key way forward," said Dr. Bernd Schmitz, a surgeon at Germany's University of Kiel. Schmitz is also growing patients' tissues from stem cells for transplants.

Schmitz predicted that doctors might one day be able to produce organs in the laboratory from patients' own stem cells.

"That is still a new area but we need pioneering approaches like this to solve the problem," he said. *Reports from AP and Reuters*

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HUMAN RIGHTS JOURNALISM

Pinoy scribe wins EC prize

By Cynthia D. Balana

FILIPINO JOURNALIST ARIES RUFO OF Mindanao Examiner has been awarded the European Commission's Lorenzo Natali Prize for journalism concerned for human rights, democracy and development, the officials of the EC delegation to the Philippines announced yesterday.

Rufo received the first prize for the Asia-Pacific region at a ceremony in Strasbourg, in France on Nov. 17. He was one of five regional prize-winners from all over the world awarded the Natali Prize, having been selected from among more than 1300 nominees from over 150 countries.

Rufo won the prize for his article about threats to the judiciary in the Philippines and received a prize of 5,000 and a trophy.

'Trained to kill'

A total of 15 prizes were awarded: one grand prize, plus five regional prizes (for Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East, each with first, second and third prizes), and a Special Television and Radio Prize.

Lorenzo Natali Prize winners receive the grand prize for his article on Darfur entitled "Trained to kill . . ." while Rufo won the first prize for the Asia-Pacific region, with the second and third Asia-Pacific prizes going to journalists from India.

In awarding the prizes, EC Commissioner for Development Louis Michel said: "Committed journalism involves risks but embodies an ideal, that of freedom of expression. Journalism that is committed to human rights, democracy and development pursues that ideal and all the enlightenment we allot and avail in our world."

Michel said the Natali Prize affords an opportunity to recognize the achievements of journalists who have always stood in the interests of seeing democracy and fundamental freedoms.

"Journalism is real life education in citizenship. Without freely independent journalism, democracy would be illusory," he avowed.

Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, head of the EC Delegation to the Philippines, congratulated Rufo for his comprehensive coverage on the threats facing the judiciary in the Philippines, in his article "8 City Se Justice: 44 Judges Killed in Severe Years," published in Newsbreak on Jan. 4, 2008.

"By observing attentively the crimes committed against judges, the article had underlined the crucial importance of impartial justice in ensuring the rule of law in a democratic society and the threats which one will exist against those who seek for the rule of law," MacDonald said.

MacDonald also expressed the hope that the work of Rufo, and of all the other journalists who have the courage and tenacity to address these issues, would serve as an inspiration in Philippine society, and act as a beacon for fundamental freedoms, human rights and the rule of law.

Natali was former vice-president of the European Commission in charge of cooperation for the development between 1981 and 1989. His work and personal commitment very much contributed to increasing the importance of cooperation policy for the development in the EC of that time.

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Rights group says abuses are continuing

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ARE CONTINUing in the Philippines with 21 extrajudicial killings taking place in the third quarter of the year, a local rights monitor said yesterday.

"Of the killings 19 took place in Mindanao where the government is fighting Muslim and communist insurgent groups, according to a report by Bantayan, an umbrella organization of human rights groups in the Philippines.

Karapatan said 43 people had been victims of "summary executions or arbitrary killings" in the first nine months of the year.

It said among the most severe killings was a labor activist, Monico Saranda, who was gunned down in July by three unidentified armed men in Compostela Valley while in August another activist, Rod Dimitri, was also shot dead in the same area.

Both were belonged to groups that have been highly critical of the military and the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Karapatan said.

The rest of the deaths were civilians caught in the crossfire between the Army and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)—including four children and a pregnant woman who were killed in a military aerial bombardment of a village constantly where encroaching rebels were said to have fled.

"The Philippine military insisted that those killed in the airstrikes were rebels but local government officials said the victims were civilians," Karapatan noted.

It said the soldiers initially described the dead as MILF sympathizers but later retracted the statement and labeled them "collateral damage."

The government has suspended talks with the MILF and launched a massive assault after the rebels carried out coordinated attacks across several Mindanao provinces in August.

At the height of the fighting in late August, government said over 600,000 people were displaced from their homes while London-based rights group Amnesty International last month said that of that total, more than half remained in evacuation camps, where water and food are in dwindling and conditions remain perilous.

In 2007, the UN's special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, Philip Alston, in visiting the Philippines for the first time in nine years, blamed the military for many of the killings, a claim that they hotly contested. AFP

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PARTNERSHIP

The Mind Museum, a science museum project of the Bonifacio Art Foundation Inc. (BAI), has entered into a partnership with National Geographic Asia that is expected to enrich its exhibition content in terms of video footage, photographs and other exhibit materials. At the contract signing, National Geographic Asia territory manager Nobuharu Sakaraia says The Mind Museum will be the magazine's venue in the Philippines for its future events and exhibits, and BAI vice chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala thanks National Geographic and the people who worked hard to make the partnership a reality.

RP seeks UN reforms

By Cynthia D. Rubeza

THE PHILIPPINES HAS JOINED THE growing clamor for the United Nations to institute much-needed reforms in the international body's powerful Security Council so it can deal more effectively with the veto rights granted to all members of the body in the elections of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as well as the veto powers of the five permanent members of the Council.

In a speech on Tuesday before the General Assembly in New York, Ambassador Hilario G. Davide Jr., Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, also called for an end to "the pattern and palpable discrimination" against member states that are not members of the Security Council in the election of judges of the ICJ.

Davide made the pitch after the Philippines lost its bid for a seat in the world court when Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, who was in the top five in the first round of voting in the General Assembly, failed to obtain the absolute majority of votes in the Security Council.

Under ICJ procedures, both the General Assembly and the Security Council would have to elect candidates for vacant seats in a separate but simultaneous secret balloting process, with the top five candidates having the absolute majority of votes in both organs getting the available seats.

The former Supreme Court justice said this was contrary to and definitely against the principle of sovereign equality of all member states enshrined in the UN Charter.

In particular, he questioned why members of the 15-member Security Council were each given two votes during the election of judges for the ICJ — one as members of the General Assembly and another as member of the Security Council. "There exists no valid and logical reason for this discrimination," Davide stressed.

Carbon tax eyed to fight climate change

IT'S AN IDEA THAT environmentalists would probably revel in.

But government officials gathered to tackle climate change, Albay Gov. Joey Salceda wondered aloud if the country should impose a "carbon added tax" on fossil fuels would, aside from raising revenues, help curb the "dirty fuel."

"Let's introduce carbon value-added tax, and use the proceeds to mitigate climate change," he said at the Carbon-Costing Congress on Climate Change in Malacañang, likening it to a "sin" tax on cigarettes and beer.

Basically, the tax was designed to discourage countries from their heavy dependence on fossil fuels, the main contributor to carbon emissions, and prompt them to shift to renewable energy sources instead.

"Climate change is caused by greenhouse gas emissions, mainly fossil fuels. We can cut them down if we impose this tax," he later told reporters.

The proceeds from the tax, he added, should subsidize climate rehabilitation in countries, especially those most vulnerable to but less equipped to deal with the impact of a warming climate.

Salceda, who serves as economic adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo, spoke about Albay's strategies in disaster-risk reduction and climate adaptation at the forum.

He stressed this tax could not be adopted by one country alone, but should be imposed on all countries by the United Nations.

John Topping Jr., president and CEO of Climate Institute which works to fix countries and states up policies on climate protection, acknowledged Salceda's proposal, but acknowledged it would be tough to implement. It would, he said, "take a lot of bargaining and negotiation."

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Mikey leads Con-ass charge in House

By [illegible] A1

FIRST SON: Rep. Mikey Arroyo at the corner of solo-brand campaign to sign up enough congressmen. [illegible]

was about. Charter change through a constituent assembly," Gonzalez said in an interview.

"I have this was being supported by the administration coalition. ... I have no hesitation and signed the resolution," he said.

But Gonzalez said that he would not know whether the group could hit the "magic number" of 196 signatures, which represent the two-third votes of the combined membership of the Senate (23) and the House (238).

Mikey Arroyo did not respond to text messages from the Inquirer seeking his comment.

"From the information that I have gathered, the administration has less already 160 congressmen who have signed for an amendment to the Constitution by way of a resolution among Mr," Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said yesterday.

"That's dangerous," said Binay, head of the United Opposition who has announced plans to run as president.

"We should all remain vigilant and always be on guard. The night woke me morning that there will be no more election under the parliamentalism of government in 2010," he told a fraternity gathering in Laoang City.

If Mikey Arroyo's campaign succeeds, the House should win the battle in its own backyard since the majority of congressmen would support single voting to amend.

No-rules initiative

Gonzalez, Gonzalez and others administration cohorts who signed the bill do not have a copy of the resolution.

A source congressman, who requested anonymity, claimed that there was only one copy of the resolution passed around.

He said the signatories were told that once the necessary support the required number of votes, it would be sent to [illegible] Supreme Court to seek opinion the Con-ass should vote to amend the Constitution.

There are three pending bills in the House calling for Charter change, but only one authored by Rep. Rufus Rodriguez specifically moved to convene Congress into a constituent assembly. But he said he had withdrawn the bill from in May.

The other bills by Representatives Monico Deroga and Edcel Lagman call for a constitutional convention.

The senior congressman said Mikey Arroyo's initiative was running on a separate but parallel track with the signature drive being led by Speaker Prospero Nograles for his bill seeking to amend the Constitution constituency to allow foreign investors equity in exploration, development and management.

Nograles yesterday confirmed that 105 out of 238 members of the House members had come on board indicating the strong objections of the majority of the Lower chamber to amend the Charter.

Anything goes in assembly

Once Con-ass is convened, any change in the Constitution could be introduced, including scrapping the upcoming presidential election and keeping Mr. Arroyo in power, lawmakers fear said.

That's why, Press Secretary Jesse Robredo's prayer at Tuesday's Cabinet meeting, wishing that Mr. Arroyo remain in Malacañang "beyond" 2010 has provoked a firestorm, in opposition circles that saw it as a signal of the administration's intention.

Their fears are being fueled by moves in Congress to nullify election of Iloilo Governor Ilonggo complaint against the President, [illegible] in the same two weeks, and the installation of Ang Kapatiran Party-list Representative Ang Kapatiran Party, a staunch administration ally, as Senate president.

Warren Erik Rep. Edcel Lagman Junior [illegible] that [illegible] Supreme Court [illegible] Mr. Arroyo's midnight alliances, to extend her term.

Regardless of whoever sits in Senate president, moves to change the Charter has always been the goal of the House since the 12th Congress, Nograles said.

PHOTO GALLERY! A student in school uniform stares at the gallery of congressmen at the lobby of the Batasan as the hearing of the House Committee on Justice on the impeachment of President Arroyo is being conducted [illegible] yesterday. [illegible]

On Oct. 23, 2008, the Supreme Court voted 8-7 to dismiss the Malacañang-backed "people's initiative" to amend the Constitution to pave the way for a parliamentary system, saying the proponents' signature campaign [illegible] more than a "grand deception."

Pangasinan Rep. Jose De Venecia, who broke away from the President and now subscribes openly to House speakership as in a campaign initiated by Mr. Arroyo's [illegible] earlier this year, yesterday expressed concern that the [illegible] Supreme Court [illegible] allies' views were inopportune [illegible]

Senate shakeup confuses Lapid

By [illegible] A1

But [illegible] Senate [illegible] Lapid [illegible] Senate [illegible] Lapid [illegible] Senate [illegible] Lapid

Only ₱1.4B allotted for 2010 election automation

By Christine V. Esguerra

WHETHER THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION is serious about automating the 2010 elections can be gauged on the measly amount it has allocated for this purpose in the proposed ₱1.4-trillion national budget for next year.

A nongovernment organization yesterday invited public attention to the ₱1.4-billion allotment for election automation, an apparently paltry sum considering the gravity of the much-awaited project.

"It's grossly inadequate," said Governor "Sticky" Soliman of the Bantay Kontra Korapsyon in Governance (BANTAYKO), whose projects include a review of the national budget.

As early as the House budget deliberations two months ago, the Commission on Elections had been working around ₱11 billion for the full automation of elections, she said.

"If automation was really a top priority for the administration, it should have allocated sufficient amount for it," she told the Inquirer. "It should have been unimaginable as part of President Arroyo's graceful dismount."

Told about DOTEDuro's criticism, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya said a supplemental budget of up to ₱20 billion was being readied for election automation.

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OPINION

The road to Peru

EDITORIAL

SO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS strained its delegation traveling with President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Asia Pacific Economic Conference summit in Peru from "about 40" congressmen to "only eight" (or maybe 10). There, a Philippine National Police official implicated in the so-called euro scandal must think, but for the grace of God go I.

Only last Monday, Prime Secretary Jesus Dureza casually noted that 40-plus congressmen were travelling with the President (and that all their expenses would be borne by the House of Representatives, not by Malacañang). On the same day, Deputy Presidential Spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo gave a rapid justification for the large House contingent. "It has been customary for lawmakers to join the President on her trips abroad," she said, apparently clueless about the broader impact of the global financial crisis and tougher economic times on the Philippines. The issue is not custom, but crisis. Of course, lawmakers have joined previous chief executives on foreign trips before; given recessionary fears, however, shouldn't the government reconsider the number of delegates to Apec?

After all, is domestic matter whether the country is going to pay for the expenses comes from the Executive or from Congress: it's still taxpayers' money.

Unlike Dureza or Fajardo, Speaker Prospero Nograles at least had the presence of mind (or the political sensitivity) to make the necessary noises about limiting the number of congressional delegates. "This trip will not be a junket. [Congressmen] need to ask permission first," he told also last Monday, in an interview with ABS-CBN, he proposed the idea of sending five members of the House economic committee to Apec.

By Wednesday, the numbers had changed. "From the initial range of about 40, I heard there were only eight," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said. "They were talked to by the Speaker. They volunteered not to go anymore."

We must credit the House leadership for shortening the list. But eight or 10 still seems too or three too many. We won't really know, until we find out who is leaving with the Presidential party. Unfortunately, as of press time, we still don't know.

The issue is not narrow, but crisis. Given economic conditions and the host economic enthusiasm, is there a real need for more than a handful of lawmakers to be in the President's party? Certainly, we understand the importance that presence of a representative from Congress will assume, if the President's Apec participation will result in new proposed legislation, say to soften the impact of the global financial crisis on our workers abroad or on our call center agents at home. But, to use Nograles' own suggestion, is there a real need to have five key members of the economic affairs committee go down the expensive road to Peru?

Indeed, President Arroyo has reduced her own official party to just five: Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Foreign Undersecretary Edsel Custodio and Dureza. What could possibly explain the House's decision to send a bigger contingent?

It is not only the current economic context that makes the sending of an unnecessarily large delegation politically unpalatable. There is also the euro scandal, the consequences of which continue to roil public opinion. In truth, the sums involved are much smaller than, say, the P728-million fertilizer scam, but they are for that very reason easier to comprehend. Malacañang and the PNP should not underestimate the magnitude of the public anger over the euro scandal.

It may be that the congressmen who had originally signed up for the Peru summit were "talked to" not only by Nograles but by Palace officials too, through informal channels. Well and good, but the result still leaves much to be desired. Right isn't enough; it is not enough.

Of course, those congressmen who were politely told to cancel their Peruvian escapade can look forward to another, bigger summit. In two weeks, all roads will again lead to Las Vegas, for the next Manny Pacquiao extravaganza. The betting will be that the number of congressmen there will dwarf the Apec mission.

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No discipline in QC 'Traffic Disciplinary Zone'

AS YOU DRIVE COMMONWEALTH AVENUE from the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City, there is a billboard that says, "Traffic Disciplinary Zone." It means that the whole stretch of Commonwealth until Fairview is a "disciplinary zone" where traffic rules will be strictly enforced. Well and good, that is what we need: the enforcement of rules not only on vehicles but also on pedestrians and commuters.

The "disciplinary zone" is a joint project of the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the Quezon City government. I remember that the project was inaugurated some time ago by Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando, and PNP Director Isaac Barias of the National Capital Region. There pictures and press releases were plastered all over the newspapers.

But true to the mega-corny tradition of PR agencies, traffic discipline on Commonwealth is no more. You don't have to drive very far to see the total lack of discipline of drivers and commuters. Only about a kilometer from the billboard that I mentioned is the corner of San Juan Ilaya, where a Mercury Drug Store, a Butuley Weed Clinic restaurant, and a Bahay ni Lola supermarket stand. Built by just a pedestrian overpass is also located here. Contrary to what that billboard says, lack of discipline rules here. Commuters stand in the middle of the street to wait for rides, and buses and jeepneys stop in the middle of the street to load and unload passengers. There used to be "No Loading/Unloading" signs here. But these commercial establishments have parking slots in front of them, but private cars park on the street outside.

The strange part is that there is a Police Community Precinct (still) four to sitting plus windows right there, under the flyover. There is an MMDA outpost, also plus-walled, on the other side. Then there are traffic enforcers all over this corner. Quezon City Hall enforcers in yellow shirts and MMDA personnel in blue. Plus there are almost always police cars and motorcycles parked in front of the police precinct. Just by looking up, the policemen inside the precinct can see through the glass windows the traffic chaos outside.

And how is the strange part? His policeman bothers to get up or even just blow a whistle to clear the traffic congestion. No traffic enforcer walks over to tell the commuters not to wait for rides in the middle of the street, nobody orders jeepney drivers for stopping in the middle of the street to load and unload passengers. Why? Your guess is probably correct.

There used to be waiting sheds on both sides of Commonwealth, near the foot of the flyover, but when the MMDA widened the avenue, they were removed. Modern waiting sheds were put up to replace them. So commuters just wait for rides wherever they please, and buses and jeepneys stop wherever they want. I say waiting sheds are needed here so that commuters and drivers will know where to wait and to load and unload passengers. Color them pink or fuchsia or any color the wants, but just put them there.

One change that has been effected by the disciplinary zone is that the jeepneys and tricycles that used to make Commonwealth near the corner of Tandang Sora their terminus have been moved to Tandang Sora, after the Tierra Bella Homes entrance and Commonwealth's gate is Tandang Sora's line. Now the jeepneys and tricycles have appropriated both sides of narrow Tandang Sora as their terminal. There are no sidewalks here, so that pedestrians, especially students from the College and New Era schools, have to walk in the middle of the street, on the same sides of the jeepneys and tricycles, where they run the risk of being sideswiped by passing vehicles.

Some students of Cubao High School go home after dark. Tandang Sora is dimly lighted, so you can understand the danger these children face while walking home.

These jeepney and tricycle terminals should be removed and sidewalks constructed. There is no need for terminals there because the jeepney route runs on Kalayaan Avenue, New Aurora Boulevard to Tandang Sora to Quirino Highway. If the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board would give one franchise each to this route instead of dividing it into five segments, there would be no need for terminals along the way (except for one under the flyover on Aurora and another in Quirino).

As of now, passengers are being cheated of their fares. From Aurora, the jeepney runs on Kalayaan for less than a kilometer until the second terminal in front of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS). Behind the University of the Philippines campus. The passenger pays the minimum fare for that short ride. Then another jeepney takes the passenger on a tour of the UP campus ("Ma!" they call it), until another jeepney takes the passenger to the MWSS terminal in Tandang Sora, which is an even shorter ride but for which he also pays the minimum fare. Then the waiting jeepneys here take him to Quirino. From Aurora to Quirino, the passenger has to take three rides, paying the minimum fare three times. If there is a franchise from Aurora to Quirino, he would pay only once although for more kilometers. Best of all, there would no jeepney terminals along the way. Traffic congestion occurs wherever there is a terminal.

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

The mind of the fall guy

WHY WOULD ANY SANE PUT HIS NECK ON the line to save the hide of another? Out of love, as in a parent for a child? Or out of a sense of higher duty, as in training watchmen for a leader committed to a lofty cause? Whatever the reason, it is difficult to understand why Secretary Philippine Veterans Affairs compatriot Eliseo de la Paz would declare: "I have to take responsibility for my actions. I can't blame somebody else. That is my responsibility."

De la Paz was stopped by Bureau customs officials at the Manila International Airport for carrying $50,000 more than amended Senate's allowable limit of a mere $5,000. He was part of an eight-member PEP delegation to the 57th United Nations General Assembly in U. Petersburg.

De la Paz absolved his superiors, PEP Director-General Jesus Verzosa and Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno. So who approved the release of the P6.9 million for the group? De la Paz in his capacity as (unspecified) who received the amount? De la Paz in his new capacity as "special disbursement officer"? His own PEP colleagues told him out and told the Senate that he violated PEP regulations when he acted as the requesting, approving and disbursing officer.

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago asked, "From now office . . . is saying that you are guilty of violating applicable laws when you ordered, and excluded at that, the release of P6.9 million. Do you agree or not?" "I agree your honor," De la Paz said.

Next, he explained that the P6.9 million was for "contingencies" and another P2.1 million for animal travel expenses, but that they ensured it not from their program travel allocation, but from their intelligence fund because the money from the program travel allocation was not yet available—information of public funds, in the lawyer's Thursday editorial points out.

Then he explained that the P6.9 million was supposed to serve as a "contingency fund" for any emergencies faced by the delegation. Santiago asked Commission on Audit (COA) Chair Reynaldo Villar if De la Paz could carry a contingency fund in a foreign trip. He replied: "I don't think that's allowed."

De la Paz was next confronted with the astronomical amounts. The P6.9 million amounted to almost P1 million for each of the eight PEP officials. Asked why the sum was so big, he explained that it was actually meant to buy "presents" and "souvenirs" of intelligence equipment in Moscow for Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, himself former Armed Forces chief, was curious. Why was nobody from the end-user officers, the intelligence agencies, in the delegation?

And how was the P6.9 million given to De la Paz? In cold cash—in P1,000 bills! Asked by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. why a check covering the amount was not issued, De la Paz said, inexplicably: "There was no check for it," before he held an additional 45,000 euros in cash, supposedly given to him by businessman Tyrone Ng Sergio to buy two expensive Swiss wristwatches.

More than the Hamilton lures in the meantime confiscated the $10,000 euros for being in excess of the allowable limit, De la Paz declares that he is willing to reimburse that sum from his own pocket, indeed to cut into his retirement lump sum for that purpose.

Finally, apprised by the Senate General that he violated Philippine law by failing to declare to Philippine customs that he was transporting foreign currency exceeding $10,000, De la Paz meekly took the fifth. He maintained that he was willing to go to prison for his mistake.

An exasperated Santiago said, "That's very heroic. But are assuming all guilt. But I have to tell you as a lawyer and a former trial judge that you are facing a regular sentence of 20 years or more than that. Are you ready to do that? Go to jail 20 years, leave your wife and child, your name tarnished—hell, just as other people can be there?"

The usual explanation is cost-benefit rationality. Imagine Eliseo de la Paz's inner dialogue: If I can set up base and the thus of all these, my life and those of my family will be in danger for the rest of my life. I will have constantly to look over my shoulder. (Short of death, they can freeze his pension, block his post-retirement insurance, and even implicate his wife in future prosecution.) So why play the hero when I will end up as just another statistic? My death will be tomorrow's headline—and the next day I will be yesterday's news. Why stand up for a people who will not remember my sacrifice?

On the other hand, if I play the fall guy, if I agree to be the scapegoat and take the Rap for someone else's sins, I will be rewarded by many others, what do I get? Surely a commensurate bounty for my sacrifice, since the beneficiaries of my sacrifice will happily pay up. They will say "thank you" not in flowery speeches but in hard cash, in secret safe-nests. My family will be "provided for." Future terms, my honor can actually make it possible for me to avoid prosecution. Delay the case until a forgetful public forgets. (Who remembers the former Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and his wife's infamous experiences with US customs?)

Am I totally hard (the dilemma is early 2009", and be derided differently, it wasn't that his was benefit calculus pitched the opposite result. Even after he had been kidnapped at the Nida and rode in the same car with his (potential grandfather), and even after the term had ossified him in the trenches of their turmoil, he seemed still unsure which path he would take.

The difference, I venture, lies not in a change of mind that outsiders can eventually analyze, but in a change of heart, wherein each man draws the line beyond which any act of self-preservation will leave an self degraded enough to preserve.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

Demons lurking behind Enrile

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

THE COLD STARES BY BACHES OF SEN. JUAN Ponce Enrile to anyone but Manuel Villar from the Senate presidency places Enrile in a strategic position that has historically been the staging ground for challenges to presidential power.

In at least two instances, the incumbent president who was seeking reelection faced challenges from Senate presidents. In 1949, Senate President Jose Avelino mounted a challenge to President Manuel Quezon but was unable to unseat him because of Quezon's control of the LP presidential machinery and his victory over the opposition Nacionalista Party and became its standard-bearer to defeated Hukbalahap.

The history of the Senate presidency as the staging ground for the presidency started in 1916 under the Jones Law (which created the Senate) when Manuel L. Quezon challenged the political leadership of the speaker of the Philippine Assembly, Sergio Osmeña.

After Marcos, there have been coups against the vice-presidency but not challenges to the incumbent in Malacañang from the Senate presidency.

One reason for the strategic advantage of the Senate presidency is that the Senate, like the House of Representatives, has the power to initiate bills to amend the Constitution, in terms of powers, it is even more powerful than the office of the vice president, who merely waits (and prays) for the president to die, to be incapacitated, to be impeached or to resign.

One reason why Enrile may have the measure of Villar makes Enrile's economic special. Enrile has not announced his intention to challenge President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is theoretically at least serving out her elected term in 2010. But to those who see a move for them to be made in 2010, a fact that makes it easier for them to remain allies and for the President not to be overly worried of Enrile plotting to undermine her.

Enrile's occupancy of the Senate presidency is other more questions over his political plans for 2010. Whether he will make a bid for Malacañang is the biggest question mark of the day.

Will President Arroyo proceed to make an exit in 2010? Her presidency is up for grabs because it has a dozen pretenders. Most of the pretenders from the Senate, including Senators Manuel Roxas, Loren Legarda, Panfilo Lacson, the deposed Villar, and Richard Gordon, expect the strategic advantage of holding the Senate presidency. Without having to announce it, given his intentions for 2010, Enrile now is situated in the position of kingmaker. The center of Villar ties removed him from a position of competitive advantage over his announced rivals, and this is the compelling reason for his rivals to turn the case against Villar to expedite his removal.

But if President Arroyo is incapacitated or dies, would he (a coup is people power before 2010, whose would it take Enrile? A coup is people power insurrection puts Enrile in a situation where he thrives best. This is what makes him dangerous. That makes him a threat to all presidential pretenders, looking forward to the election in the seats in the presidency. The electoral system is not Enrile's preferred route to the presidency. Enrile presented him with opportunities to push power in 1986 with his RAM forces, following their rebellions against Marcos and Enrile's betrayal of Marcos to Cory spectacle.

Up to now, Enrile has never given up the belief that the civilian-backed people power uprising in 1986 robbed him of the opportunity to exercise the power that is his due as a boldfaced hero. Cory Aquino and later Gloria Arroyo, who ousted by the military revolt, not to the civilians who responded to the call of opposition leader Cory Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin who called on the people to man the lines of beleaguered military rebels holding out in Camp Aguinaldo and later in the Philippine Constabulary headquarters in Camp Crame. Enrile has never acknowledged that people power saved him and his rebellion from possible slaughter by Marcos loyalist troops led by Gen. Fabian Ver.

The electoral path to the presidency has been foreclosed to Enrile's ambitions, but he has not been one to remain confined to the parliamentary sidelines. He has been constantly seized in legislative, sometimes played by several coup attempts executed by Gregorio Honasan's RAM boys associated with Enrile. And Enrile has gone a long way since 1986 to redemption himself into the civilian embrace of people power movement.

In the Senate shake-up that ousted Villar, Enrile was installed as Senate president not because he plotted it, as because President Arroyo had a hand in it or because President Joseph Estrada backed the coup. It is correct to say that the coup against Villar was led by Senator Juan Ponce Enrile. There was no grand conspiracy behind the coup. The dividing ambitions of several presidential aspirant finally tied the coup.

But we must remember that this confluence has put Enrile in the top-most rung of a position of the Senate presidency, which is a unique vantage point for observing the political drama in crisis. The demons of ambition that are lurking behind Enrile's silence embedded in a democratic institution.

Music in war

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

movie. Will the Japanese intelligence officer discover the Filipino family's connection to the guerrillas? Will Ricardo give vent to his pent-up rage and frustration? Will Josefito's forays to the camp and his familiarity with the Japanese get him into trouble? And what of the movie itself? Is the American "liberator" portrayed in flattering or unflattering light?

The film's climax is an impromptu ceremony staged by the family to celebrate the return of their boyhood pinups, which the Japanese had confiscated from the attic. The Japanese officer providential, it's little sad, for most of the soldiers are due to leave camp the next morning to take up hara-kiri or suicide missions, a last, desperate plan of the Japanese military to stop the Filipino-American liberation. Instead of the usual drinking and dancing, the family and their Japanese guests sing solemn and reverential songs, culminating with the singing of the Philippine national anthem, "Lupang Hinirang."

It's a moving scene, one expects it to fall into the cliches of wartime cinema—the rape of the daughter, the heroism, the revenge killing, the reconversion of the friendly Josefito, a reunion with a wedding as a coda.

But while the film doesn't measure up and all the horrors it was—the children come across the body of a civilian in the house, and Josefito nearly removes the chest and puts them on—neither does it ever descend to the maudlin.

Under Marilou Cruz-Diaz's handling, the movie is more interested in exploring how war, in all its dehumanizing horror, manages to find room for tenderness and humanity—for the ordinary, the soul, for love, to rising above their difficulties, they manage to maintain the values that have kept them strong and united, surviving even the harshest of times.

There is a lesson here for families everywhere—and in my case "seven of them." The occasional news may sound dire and desperate, but if there's one thing I've learned from my own family, it's that we and friendship, then surely today's families can find their own sources of strength, too.

* * *

WERE we "indie" productions, "Camarero" looks, sounds and feels like one. Perhaps it's the cinematography, the sound (the clanking tools), **which** builders every scene in a warm, golden light. Or maybe it's the more-than-competent acting, not just a bona fide by any of the cast.

Dubbed-acting are Humanitas Conference Room 2 and Cinema One viewers about the challenge of playing camaro in a stereotype, managing to imbue her pious, kindly mother role with some steel and stillness. A revelation is Jay Sagustin, who portrays Joselito as comfortable and confident. Likewise a revelation is Tita Swarding, who plays Josefito's wife Ruth. It's difficult to believe, too, that "Camarero" is Swarding's first venture in film, be he heads the aging, bitter military officer a quiet dignity and resolution. Sheryll Soriano has long been one of Philippine movies' most underused actresses. In this film, for despite her stupendous she delivers nearly large her emotions moved.

A special mention here of the actors portraying the Japanese officers and soldiers, who skirt the temptations of overacting and instead, in their restraint and near mimicry, look like the authentic epitomes of the soldiers they must fulfill to.

Maybe that's "Camarero" greatest gift the realization that even in war, we were all, Japanese, Americans or Filipinos, just human beings caught in a hell not of our making, but discovering amid the wreckage, the core of our true selves.

A passion for history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

E. ARSENIO MANUEL WAS A STYLISH LEADING associated with the four-volume "Dictionary of Philippine Biography." As a college student, I would go through Manuel's work and marvel at the meticulously research that went into these books. Manuel did not only dig up libraries and archives, he actually went around municipios copying dates of birth and death from tombstones!

Mentor Tongson was kind enough to invite me to Hanes House to be on the only room to be there books that did were, at the time, unavailable in bookstores. Manuel and I had each other immediately. As he was told that I was destined for history and he inspired by his stories on research. While telling me about the pre-war University of the Philippines campus on Taft Avenue, he said he had originally planned to be a historian, but since he lived and worked near Teodoro R. Agoncillo, who was also pursuing that field, he decided to shift to anthropology and started by becoming one of the assistants of H. Otley Beyer.

A retired emeritus professor of anthropology at the University of the Philippines, Manuel was a pioneer in the Philippine Prehistory in the late 1950s. Manuel was also a pioneer in the study of Philippine music in that after those hours of monotone monologue lecturing. He came to class on the last day and we sat on the board, "Where history ends anthropology begins." I took that as a cue to shadow Manuel and go further down the time line. Manuel was also a pioneer in the study of Philippine music anywhere in the Philippines at the time. I flirted a while with anthropology and outlined early on that I was not meant to be an archeologist digging in an open field. I was more comfortable researching in a library or archive.

Manuel was also a pioneer in Philippine Biography. Before, in 1960 and that became the landmark training in archeology I love and learned how not you are made, how one iteration of the soil gives clues to age and chronology. I take one how orchestrate, evaluate the statements coming out of the earth: bones, rocks, fossils, broken pieces of earth, coupes. This was always interesting but there was not as much to learn especially in the area of bones: knowing biology, anatomy, chemistry, etc. One made me remember that I chose to become a historian to avoid math and science in school.

During our biology excursion, there were only two highlights, because we didn't find anything remarkable on our way to Bulacan and Pampanga. For us who a catalog fell into the pit one night and we spent the better part of a day getting it out, to the amusement of the whole town and neighbors. Second was when a handful of farmers came to the site with oxcarts and having filled with an assortment of ancient pottery and human bones. They had been selling their finds from at least four days and were so intrigued that they left their farms and made a living looking for and selling ancients to dealers and collectors in Manila. They brought our living pottery, mostly blue and white bowls and plates, and they were surprised that we were not interested in their finds. Some of these ended up in other stores, not necessarily from the area, as they traded by our benefactors that came from China, Vietnam, Thailand and India. I had seen similar artifacts in museums. These objects were unfortunately taken out of the ground without proper archeological recording of the provenance of the site. While the context of the objects—where were they found, with what other objects or with human remains—all that was gone.

From then on I never looked at my mother's Ateneo collection the same way. Before all this, I never took a second look at the ceramics we had at home, which mother used as flower vases or put scattered around the coffee tables. But from things have been coming out of the ground and collected since the 1960s. So many clues to our past are being sought as a result of the people's living rooms. They are not used for study or research but just for decoration.

In the San Pedro beach resort in Batulao, I saw a whole plate of broken shards of Ming porcelain Chinese and Thai ceramics and was told they were a beach resort. They were really found in the shore. A reader sent me an e-mail saying that when they played prior to dolphins, they threw an used Ming shards to swimmers.

When roads are built and fields are cleared, these things will turn up. It is too bad that young people are not taught to look for these. Children are taught about pre-colonial trade and exchange in Pilipinas, but few realize that they can see and handle the real things in their own homes.

Although I'm a failed archeologist, I look back with fondness to E. Arsenio Manuel's class and the lessons I learned from him. Every time I see an old house I can almost hear Manuel say that "I would have otherwise overlooked. He taught me to become a scholar and the stories they contain or studies.

Not all history is found in a written record or a book. Some of it is found in the ground, in museums and archives. Learning to see things in a different light and continually asking questions, even if things are not laid out before us, helps us become better researcher, appreciate and Manuel inherited me with their enthusiasm, and I can only hope that I can pass on the same quality and feeling off my enthusiasm to our students and readers.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ocampo@pacific.net.ph

Safe, satisfying

LAST FRIDAY I HAD TO DELIVER A LECTURE ON AN assigned topic, "gender, sexuality, sexuality and sexual rights." I was having uncomfortable about the title, which seemed boring and staid, as I did a quick change. I had a good feeling seeing the term in the program on the billboard-sized screen of the Philippine International Convention Center: "What's wrong with safe and satisfying sex?"

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

The title came from a question from several rights that have been proposed. These include "closure of partners," "consensual sex," "respect for bodily integrity" and others which I bought out in the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) lecture. The last of the ill-sexual rights was "safe, satisfying and pleasurable sexual life."

These sexual rights are controversial. The mere concept of sexual rights is controversial to many, especially those who had not decided to only for reproduction. The idea that it might be pleasurable is even almost as they such repulsive.

Yet can even a biomedical point of view, sexual rights, especially this right to "safe, satisfying and pleasurable sexual life," makes a lot of sense. A few years ago, a multinational study on sexual behavior called "Global Sex Survey of sexual attitudes and behavior" in 27 countries, including the Philippines. The survey looked in well into people's evaluation of their own subjective sexual well-being. Some results of the study were published in 2006 in the inclusive of Sexual Behavior in an article that had followed Louisiana-related author. The author found that people in countries grouped around the world), but most often sexual satisfied, with headlines like "Americans most sexually satisfied."

I've read the scientific report and there are more important findings than that it's being 40th to produce good music (Rihanna) and good sex. Foremost is the finding that the better the subjective sexual well-being of an individual, the better one is in his or her general well-being and health. To put it more concretely, sexual well-being also means better health. The medical studies conducted in this area are unequivocal: good sex has many dividends. All the way up to longer life expectancy. It's almost as if nature provides a long and healthy life as an incentive, as a reward, and how one used if you multiply in the process, that's there).

Safety

The concept there of "sexual health" and "sexual rights" shouldn't be limited to ob/gyn conventions, every medical specialty should consider it, but. Let's face it, outside of the academic conventions, most physicians, people based here, we're in some sense to risk sexual health and general well-being. If you're particularly difficult to verbalize (what does it make will joke, "Had a bad night?" and if you're habitually grouchy, especially if you're a woman, people will talk behind your back and say, "Walang sex ang," compounding you're a petrified plane.

Here did the Philippines fare with subjective sexual well-being? Not too well, I'm afraid. That finding won't surprise to the researchers because as they looked at the sexual well-being scores, they were able to cluster the countries. The ones that did very well were countries where there was more gender equality. Countries that were "male-oriented" and those that the Philippines I ranked behind the "gender-equal" countries.

Oh, but wait, some readers might go, especially if you read my column last Wednesday, which mentioned another more relevant survey, by the World Economic Forum, on gender equality. That survey put the Philippines in the top among developing countries. Doesn't that mean we're doing better? If you go back to my article, and in the survey itself, you'll find that what that study did was to look at access to resources, with measures like gender ratio in schools, expectations and government. It did not consider male-female relations at more personal levels, including sex. Which is why I find the United Nations Development Index and the Philippines getting a better picture of gender relations in the Philippines.

I'm going to share with you some figures to make the study more concrete. Asked about physical sexual pleasure, 47 percent of Filipino men and 46 percent of Filipinas responded positively (I'm assuming all honest). That doesn't look too bad, but consider that 20 percent of Filipinos have more than one mate, but only that, people in gender-equal countries did much, much better. Among Canadians for example, the figures were 71 percent of men and 66 percent of women. Not only were more Canadians physically satisfied, but the gap between women and women was smaller.

Another study on sexual behavior in the world-being was "importance of sex." Among Filipino men, 37 percent responded that sex was very important or important, compared to only 20 percent among women. With Canadians, only 43 percent of men and 21 percent of women considered sex important. They're revealing statistics, sex is more important to Filipino men than Canadians, but there's a huge gap between Filipino men and women as well as to Canada, although with a smaller spread.

Stars

It's clear that women in the Philippines, for various reasons, are not enjoying sex as much as men do. And if you're thinking, "Ah, but that's because it's difficult to enjoy sex so much as men do" or even "Women shouldn't enjoy sex," then it shows what I mean by a gender gap.

There are many reasons why our women may not enjoy sex. There can be a lot of negating attitudes transmitted to women, and this happens to many wives whose husbands are away from home, whether overseas or in other cities, and where their husbands are philandering. The situation is worse with women who can't protect themselves, unable to ask their husbands to "behave," or to use a condom. Essentially, our conditions allow wives to ask their husbands to use condoms with sex workers, but not with themselves.

There can be a host of getting pregnant. It's a fact but especially when there is a fear of getting children, sleeping in the same room with the parents, constantly reminding the mother what another child would mean.

There can be other of sex itself, partly because our culture is harsher on women when it comes to messages about sex starting in the responsibility to procreate and anything else would be dirty.

Ok, gripe one body women to overcome some of these fears, if the women bring great pleasure in the first place. Otherwise, they're left on their own (as are the men). Incidentally, one more author sex from husbands, which impairs communication, especially during sex, when we need it.

A safe, satisfying and pleasurable sexual life is not about size and techniques, but about rights to say no as well as to say yes—not even for the wife to say, "I want it." It's about being sensitive to the many complex issues that might have, and just about having sex itself but what happens afterwards.

If sexual rights are controversial, it's because they imply an obligation on the part of the state, of communities, schools and families, to satisfy people's needs for information and services. That includes sexuality education that tackles relationships, rights, and respect.

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St. Luke's Guest Chefs

The International School for Culinary Arts & Hotel Management (ISCAHM), which boasts of a faculty roster of hotel executives, executive chefs and pastry chefs of 5-star international hotel chains, will be our guests at St. Luke's Medical Center from November 24 to 30.

Led by Chef Norbert Gandler, Director for Culinary Arts and Pastry & Bakery Arts, the chefs will prepare lunch for the week for both patients and guests. He will be joined by the ISCAHM faculty. They will also visit patients during the week.

For more information, please call the Food and Nutrition Department at (632) 723-0101 ext. 5912.

E. Samar's roads from hell

WE, THE ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP AND Clergy of the Diocese of Borongan which covers the length of Eastern Samar, collectively make an urgent appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo, over our very worrisome road problems. Although we have previously issued pastoral letters and statements regarding the issue, the problem is largely unsolved.

Please consider the following:

1. **Presently the affected areas are the roads** from Taft to Guiuan, Eastern Samar, with some parts worse than others. The latter includes the roads between Wright and Taft, Arteche and San Policarpo, Taft and Borongan as well as those between Borongan and Buenavista, Gen. MacArthur, Eastern Samar.

2. The above roads are characterized by crowding craters and potholes of an increasing number and size, slowing down traffic and making the daily transport of persons, goods and services an agonizing experience. In fact, some areas could be impassable in the next few days due to the mounted rains.

3. Our road woes are chronic and, in some places, even dangerous. There is no time, little or no action that has adequately resolved them. Our local politicians pass the responsibility to the Department of Public Works and Highways and the latter cries the lack of sufficient funds. We wonder why other provinces do not have the same problem. We are informed there is more than a million pesos in maintenance funds monthly. Yet all we see are splintered rocks and sand being used to cover cramped roads, originally of asphalt or concrete overlay.

4. **We share our people's urgent plea.** We do any both the attention and intellectual action on such a vital concern by concerned government authorities.

All of this is why we turn to President Arroyo. Please help us bring an end to one of our people's long-standing sufferings and cut the delay in development that the people of Eastern Samar also rightfully deserve.

—(REV.) ISIDRO B. ESPAÑOL, DD,
Bishop of Borongan, Eastern Samar
(and 49 other signatories here)

LETTERS

Only option left for peace-loving communities

CIVILIANS ARE AMONG THE CASUALTIES OF armed conflicts. We have seen up close the faces of mothers crying out of sight, men and women in many evacuation centers, and our hearts bleed for them. Efforts to upgrade the miserable living conditions in these temporary shelters can never be enough. It is so easy to put the blame on the government for the conflict that has resulted in many evacuations, but there is more to what meets the eye here.

This misery could not have happened if the rogue commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, namely Umbra Kato, Sharee and Pangalian did not attack, murder and pillage civilians in Lanao, Cotabato and Sarangani. When atrocities like these happen, do not expect the government forces to just watch passively and wait for the MILF to properly deal with its men. The MILF has failed to do that and, in some instances, even abetted its forces' terrorist acts. The savagery and brutality must be stopped, and because the government is dealing with heavily armed bands that cannot be met by mere police action, it has to respond decisively with military might.

The human rights militants should shift their eyes to the current anti-displacement of communities in Lanao del Norte MILF front-supported and attacked western towns and barangays. They did not raise a voice of protest when children and aging men and helpless women were shot and slaughtered, and their homes burnt to ashes.

We want to see peace and quiet return to the victims' communities so that our brother Muslims, Christians and lumad can return to their farms and live normal lives again.

Unfortunately, while the marauders are on the loose, we have to bear with the ugly situation in the evacuation centers. We hope that the disaster coordinators, the social welfare departments, the authorities of the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, local government units and members of Congress would be kind enough to extend more aid to these victims of the Mindanao conflict. The additional assistance could alleviate the suffering of the evacuees.

The other alternative here is to assist government forces in their campaign to make the rogues in the MILF accountable for the acts of terrorism they have committed, for as long as they are on the loose and armed, they will never agree to peace: no helpless civilians. Expect then that the military campaign will continue and Mindanao will have no peace.

We have to be clear with our options and with what has been happening. For the peace-loving communities in Mindanao, regardless of their faith, tribe and cultures, their only rational choice is to help the government in its campaign to weed out the terrorists from their midst.

—ARVIN M. AGUAS,
Aias_de_jesus@yahoo.com

Kudos to Inquirer for running 'Himala' story

I WISH TO THANK THE INQUIRER FOR THE wonderful news report that Bayani San Diego Jr. wrote about the restoration of Nora Aunor's "Himala" as the Best Asia Pacific Film of All Time. (November, 12/13/08)

The film really made history after more than a quarter of a century. Kudos to the success and everybody out there!

—RAUL CAR UEL
Grand Alliance of Nora Aunor Philippines

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Cor. of Makati or send a fax to 896-8773, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

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Republic of the Philippines

ANG BAGONG LAHING FILIPINO DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.,

www.blpfoundation.org
dr_alvinalmirante_yahoo.com
S.E.C. Registry No. A2002-00833-2002
Non-Government Organization

EXCEPT FROM THE EFFECTIVE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ABOVE-NAMED FOUNDATION, HELD ON FEBRUARY 7, 2008 AT 10:00 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING, AT THE 5TH FLOOR OFFICE, MAKATI CITY.

LAND FOR THE LANDLESS Acquisition under TORRENS SYSTEM *Real Property Act* 1858

TO STOP THE "EVIL RULE" OF RICH SPEAKERS OF THE RICH AND INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE, REJECTED IN BOLSTERING LAND TITLES DUE TO DEFECTIVE ADJUDICATE FINDINGS BY LAND REGISTRATION COMMISSION (L.R.C.), REGISTRY OF DEEDS (R.D.), B.L.R.M., AND OTHER AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A FAIR AND EQUITABLE LAND DISTRIBUTION AND ACQUISITION SCHEMES OF MASS STRUGGLE AND SET OF TERMS AND SUBSIDIES.

RESOLUTION NO. 01

Series of 2008

SUBJECT: A RESOLUTION URGING THE REGIONAL DIRECTORS, PROVINCIAL, CITY, MUNICIPAL, BARANGAY AND SITIOS, GREETING THEIR SALUTATIONS TO ENDORSEMENT THEIR LONG HELD INFORMATION AS PER LAND TITLES, AS REQUIRED BY THE TORRENS SYSTEM BY VIRTUE OF JUDICIARY LAND TITLES AND DEEDS AUTHORITIES, ADVISED BY THE SUPREME COURT TO BASIC DECISION G. R. No. 155727, U.S. No. 150600 PROMULGATED DECEMBER 13, 1906, ENTITLED: "ANG BAGONG LAHING FILIPINO DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, Incorporated, vs. duly established and organized and existing under Philippine Law (Republic Act. 14595) with principal office at 7420 DMP Bldg., Santillan St., Pio Del Pilar District City with SEC. REGISTRATION No. A2002000833-2002, DULY represented by the RESOLUTION OF PRESIDENT AND BOARD DIRECTORS ARCHIE R.L.A. 2006 as duly cited by R.A. 1405, Sec. 19; 1405 amended PD. No. 1505 amended R.A. 1405, Sec. 19, 1948 amended Sec. 6, 2006 1373, REPUBLIC ACTS 1405, 1505, 1373 and other pertinent laws governments. Community-based or Sectoral Organizations that promote the welfare of the nation. The state shall promote the rights to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. The state is mandated to promote safety and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and security of the people and the blessings of democracy for the present and posterity.

WHEREAS, the Ang Bagong Lahing Filipino Development Foundation, Inc., is duly Registered by the National Library S.E.C. 1763, entitled TORRENS SYSTEM PROCEEDING REGISTRATION OF REAL PROPERTY TITLES AND DEEDS UNDER REAL PROPERTY ACT (2008 register of letters, the copyright shall belong to the author subject to the provisions of Article 7(b) of the 1948 Berne Act, as WIPO No. 0001, and under WIPO Publication on August 8, 2004 with Registration No. 4-2004-1373, RESOLUTION No. 01 Series of 2007) establishes the national and other newspapers Philippine Daily Inquirer on February 16, 2005, entitled LAND FOR THE LANDLESS AND HOME FOR THE HOMELESS on page 98, SEC. 8, VOL. 9, No. 98 (Machine copy is hereto attached as "ANNEX" and made an integral part of this paragraph.)

WHEREAS, The Torrens System in the Philippines is judicial in form but administrative in character. Under it proceedings for the registration of land throughout the Philippines shall be in rem and shall be based on the generally accepted principles underlying the Torrens System (Sec. 2, PD. 1529). In connection with Section 108 of PD. 1529, Act No. 496, it is mandatory upon the court to avoid initiating the government. Section 48 (land transfer) of the Public Land Act (CA 141) as amended by Section 14 under the provisions of Section 44 of Commonwealth Act No. 141 ——— Most of the land now occupied or possessed by the people throughout the Philippines are not covered by titles issued by the Government. (Machine copy is hereto attached as ANNEX and made an integral part of this paragraph)

Registration of the land once once terminated. Occupancy of lands alone, even for a long period of time, does not vest ownership or constitute registration of the land once once terminated. Their possession of the land for such length of time justifies the presumption that the landlord never lived part of the public domain and that it had been actively possessed even before Spanish conquest. Republic vs. Court of Appeals, 225 SCRA 693, as also in Republic vs. Court of Appeals, 94 Phil. 147; Republic vs. Aquino, 109 Phil. 1021; Republic vs. Ordoñez, 39 SCRA 749 (Machine copy is hereto attached as "ANNEX" and made an integral part of this paragraph.)

The Government proclaims under the 1987 Constitutional Amendment by Nothing Less by the the government's declaration of fundamental principles through the land ownership rights of the people, agrarian laws are duly mandated by many institutions of ownership over the land adopting the ownership of the land, and the government's declaration of principles and policies to conform with its declaration principles and policies to conform with its declaration principles and policies to conform with its declaration

Across the NATION

VIEW OF Mt. Diwalwal shows houses scattered around hills that are believed to hold millions of tons of gold. INQUIRER PHOTO

9 dug up alive as mud covers Diwalwal village

TAGUM CITY—AT LEAST NINE PERSONS WERE safely plucked out of a mountain of mud that buried a portion of the mining village of Mt. Diwata in Monkayo, Compostela Valley yesterday.

The landslide was triggered by rains that lasted a week and also brought flooding and landslides in many parts of Mindanao.

Senior Insp. Ronald dela Rosa, Compostela Valley police chief, told the Inquirer through text messages that the landslide occurred in Purok 17 in Tiange district around 6 a.m.

He said it destroyed the house of Felix Elimino, where most of the victims were staying.

Slow process

Dela Rosa said members of the Mt. Diwalwal special police, led by Senior Insp. Nathaniel Villapanosa, and other residents helped in the rescue operations and initially dug up four victims.

They were identified as James Tamala, 36; Grace Sualla, 23; a certain JC Alon, 32; and a certain Jaujon dyan, 21.

Dela Rosa said the four were brought to a village health center for treatment of bruises and other minor injuries.

Dela Rosa said another rescue operation was conducted when police and authorities were informed that five other people remained unaccounted for, almost four hours after the landslide had taken place.

Second rescue

He said during the second rescue operations, which started 10 a.m., the five missing victims were all found alive.

They were a certain Elmino, Michael Cubelo, Hot Gomez, Ariel Daghay and Bernard Catan.

Dela Rosa said the second rescue operations was completed at about 10:30 a.m. but police were keeping watch for another landslide.

Soft soil

Mt. Diwata is a landslide-prone area and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) has repeatedly warned residents of the dangers of living in the mountain as rainwater could erode the soil, especially during rains.

In an earlier study it conducted, the MGB urged the residents to relocate to safer areas because many parts of the mining village sit on unstable ground soil.

Despite the warnings, residents continued to occupy areas that have been identified as landslide prone to the village.

In recent years, dozens of people had already died in landslides triggered by torrential rains in the village, site of fearless Mandaware gold mining capitals.

Death for gold

Aside from Diwata, Compostela Valley officials are also monitoring the situation in hinterland areas of Mawab town, another mining area in the province.

In September, at least 26 people were killed and 400 families fled when landslides hit the villages of Masara and Maco in Davao.

Mawab was eventually declared nearly the habitation.

In Bilihia, Davao del Sur, the torrential rains also triggered floods in Barangay Bukalacan. No casualty or damage was immediately reported.

In Sinagu, South Cotabato, the search for a boy who have also found at least 2000 hectares of agricultural land, Chery Estrella, municipal agriculturist, said yesterday.

Estrella said the damage to crop was totally estimated at nearly P1 million. Aviation Limited with reports from Edda Aguirre and Cherlie Sobrio, Inquirer Mindanao

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Press Secretary
National Printing Office
Ermita, Manila

November 17, 2008

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

THE NATIONAL PRINTING OFFICE (NPO), through its bids and awards committee (BAC), invites eligible manufacturers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the contracts for:

Name of Project: Scrap Metal
Location: National Printing Office
Approved Budget for the Contract: [illegible]
Delivery Period: [illegible]

Prospective bidders shall be subject to eligibility screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids under the Government Procurement Reform Act (Republic Act 9184). Bidders shall comply with the following schedule of activities:

	Activity	Schedule
1.	Publication of Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid	[illegible]
2.	Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 19, 08 – 10:00 AM (Conference Room)
3.	Deadline of Submission of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 20, 08 – 10:00 AM (Conference Room)
4.	Bid Opening	[illegible]
5.	Bid Evaluation	[illegible]
6.	Post-qualification	[illegible]
7.	Notice of Award	[illegible]

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00.

The NPO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract on the ground of [illegible] or any other circumstance which may render such action prejudicial to the interest of the government.

(Sgd.) MIGUEL D. MORAN
Chairman

ATD: November 17, 2008

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Press Secretary
National Printing Office
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ATD: November 17, 2008

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Draw dates: March 30, & April 6, 2009

(3) SECOND PRIZES:
1 round-trip Business class ticket to Australia, Honolulu or Japan with 2N3D accommodations, breakfast and transfers.
Draw dates: February 5 & 28, & March 5, 2009

(6) THIRD PRIZES:
1 round-trip Business class ticket to Bangkok, Beijing, Guam, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Macau, Shanghai, Singapore, Taipei or Xiamen with 2N1D accommodations, breakfast and transfers.
Draw dates: November 10 & 20, December 8 & 22, 2008, January 8 & 26, 2009

(110) CONSOLATION PRIZES:
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Mechanics:
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   • One (1) raffle entry for every domestic ticket lifted one way
   • Two (2) raffle entries for every Bangkok, Guam, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Macau, Saipan, Singapore, Taipei or Xiamen ticket lifted one way
   • Three (3) raffle entries for every Beijing or Shanghai ticket lifted one way
   • Four (4) raffle entries for every Fukuoka, Honolulu, Kansai (Osaka), Melbourne, Nagoya, Narita, Pusan, Seoul or Sydney lifted one way
   • Five (5) raffle entries for every Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Francisco or Vancouver ticket lifted one way
   • Bonus one (1) raffle entry for Business class e-ticket holders
2. Winning e-ticket no. will be drawn electronically under supervision of the Civil Aeronautics Board.
3. Raffle entries not drawn will still be included in succeeding raffle draws.
4. A passenger has as many chances of winning as the number of e-tickets he/she has purchased and flown within the promo period.

Tickets not eligible for the raffle: zero fare, industry discount, infant, Mabuhay Miles award ticket, complimentary ticket, Air Philippines codeshare and PAL Express ticket.

Prizes:
1. Grand draw prizes and special prizes are exclusive of taxes and terminal fees.
2. Prizes are valid for one (1) year from date of publication in the newspaper.
3. Prizes are non-transferable but not convertible to cash.

Names of winners of each draw will be published in the newspapers and PAL website.

For more information on the raffle terms and conditions, please visit the PAL website.

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For CAB Approval dated October 31, 2008

NEWSBRIEFS

■ TACLOBAN CITY

P150M for projects spent

AT LEAST 350 community-driven projects costing nearly P150 million have so far been implemented this year in Eastern Visayas, one of the country's poorest regions.

These were implemented under the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (Kalahi-CIDSS), which is the government's main poverty reduction program for 40 "poorest of the poor" provinces.

In Eastern Visayas alone, 251 projects costing P148,751 million have been implemented since January until mid-November this year, according to Neil Montalda, Kalahi-CIDSS regional social marketing officer.

The Kalahi-CIDSS program encourages barangay residents to identify projects that their communities need, design their own projects and make the decisions on how to use resources.

Vicente Labro, Inquirer Visayas

■ BACOLOD CITY

Cop, wife sued for murder

A POLICEMAN, his wife and an unidentified man were charged with the murder of a businessman who died instantly and face charges for the death of another businessman who was also to settle the assailants' ransom before he died on a hospital.

Police filed the charges against PSI Johnny Bitano, his wife Analyn and another man who were tagged as suspects in the shooting of businessmen Dixon Chua and his companions, Antonio Colmenares and Rowan Palabrica, at the Bacolod City Prosecutor's Office.

Supt. Leo Irwin Agpangan, acting Bacolod City police chief, said four witnesses linked Bitano in the killing of Chua, Colmenares and Palabrica at Chua's warehouse on 5 S. Bayabo Street here on Oct. 29.

Chua was killed instantly while Colmenares died at the Doctors' Hospital on Monday. Before his death, Colmenares identified Bitano as the policeman's cohorts and the van for the attack.

According to police, Bitano shot Chua with .45 caliber pistol, said four witnesses linked to the incident.

US blue chips now selling under $10 per share

NEW YORK—ONE HUNDRED and one.

No, that's not Dalmatians but the number of stocks in the 30-benchmark S&P 500 index now trading for less than $10 a share.

In fact, $10 would get you 30 shares of stellar brokerage E*Trade, some of the cheapest stock in the index at 99 cents a share. At the other end of the low-ball spectrum, you can get a small piece of the garbage business with a share of Allied Waste at $9.90.

In between lies a raft of household names, many formerly held up as blue chips, including Citigroup ($6.40), Alcoa ($6.16), Ford ($1.84), Bank of America ($7.97) and Yahoo ($9.18), not to mention beleaguered automakers Ford Motor ($1.26) and General Motors ($2.75).

Recall, the group makeup up the greatest number of $10 stocks in the index in at least 20 years, according to Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at Standard & Poor's.

"This is definitely unusual," Silverblatt said. "I don't recall I have to go back to the 70s or 1980s, when $10 was worth more to mean similar number."

Investors dug in to S&P stocks, driving it almost double the 752 computer with those prices below $10 in October 2001, when the descent mid-above was in full swing and almost triple the 55 mid-$10 stocks in October 1987.

The dollar is more than just a psychological barrier. Some institutional investors cannot invest in shares below $10 and many brand customers require companies above that level.

Some other gloomy facts: Only five S&P 500 companies had share prices of more than $100 on Wednesday.

So far this year, the S&P 500 has plunged 40 percent. It is now nearly just more $7 trillion, the index's lowest collective market value in 11 years.

Twenty-five stocks, or 5 percent of the index, didn't make the $10-billion mark in market cap, and just 11 exceeded the $100-billion level.

In fact, a third of the entire index is not even qualified to be in the index—188 stocks have market caps under $4 billion, the minimum value for eventual weights for S&P 500 membership.

Reuters

Top Asian finance officials in Manila to draw action plan

FINANCE AND CENTRAL BANK officials from Japan, South Korea and China yesterday met their Southeast Asian counterparts in Manila to devise an action plan to prevent the global financial crisis from destabilizing the region's economy.

The meeting was expected to take up an upgraded $80-billion pool of currency swap lines signed by the 13 Asian economies in December in Beijing, including proposals to increase the amount of the pool and step up its launch to the first quarter of 2009 instead of later in the first half of this year.

Philippine Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told reporters after officials would decide whether to expand the Chiang Mai Initiative (CMI), an existing arrangement of mainly bilateral currency swaps, into a fund which countries in the region could tap for liquidity or to boost selling financial institutions.

"It's similar to the concept of the bailout plan to the United States," Teves said on the sidelines of the meeting.

"The amount can also be used to purchase bad or toxic assets. The direction is the same. The timing is different in the sense that we're doing it hopefully much ahead of a crisis. In the case of the United States, they reacted to a crisis," he said.

"In the case of them (U.S.), there is no problem yet, at least not in the magnitude of the United States and Europe."

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) groups Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines, Laos, Thailand, Burma (Myanmar) and Brunei.

Surveillance mechanism

The region must come up with a strong surveillance mechanism soon to prompt any economic crisis brewing in Asia, Teves said, adding he hoped the details of the mechanism would be finalized out at the meeting in Istanbul.

Southeast and East Asian nations must come up with the CMI to address liquidity problems during the 1997 financial crisis when regional currencies nosedived.

Except for the euro and the Japanese yen, Asian currencies have fallen against the dollar this year, with the Korean won as the region's worst performer.

Thailand wants to raise the amount of the pool under the CMI, Teves said. South Korea is reportedly keen on supporting the move.

Last week, Japan, South Korea and China said they would consider expanding the size of the currency swaps between their countries to avert further damage to their economies.

Japan, the world's second-biggest economy, slipped into its first recession in seven years in the third quarter and South Korea's financial institutions are struggling to raise funds.

The results of the Manila meeting would be discussed further by finance officials in Hokuriku, Japan, later this month before it is presented to finance ministers to December for approval. The leaders of Japan, South Korea and China will also attend the summit.

Governments around the world have pledged to inject more than $4 trillion into banks, confounding some and panic-mending despite the move in an effort to address the impact of the global financial crisis.

To mitigate the effect of the recession in the world's biggest economies on the country, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce is pushing for a $1.66-billion spending plan to buy out infrastructure contracts of the government and private sectors. Reports from Reuters and Bernel R. Dayaday

US Fed sees prolonged recession

Economy, A2

A TRADER rubs his head while working on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange near the end of the trading day on Wednesday. Wall Street dipped to a five-year low, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling below the 8,000 mark. AFP/TIMOTHY A. CLARY

Bryan, the British maker of plane engines, said it would slash up to 12,000 jobs from its workforce to scale back.

Rolls-Royce's shares in Britain was symbolled in its iconic retailer Woolworths, which is selling its chain of 815 stores, even as competitors began offering steep, early discounts to get stores from what may well be a dismal Christmas season.

Stocks crumble

Amid the gloomy gloom, US and European stocks stumbled to their lowest levels in five and a half years, while Asian shares suffered the same fate early.

Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 average on Thursday slumped 7 percent after official figures showed Japanese exports in October sank 7.7 percent, their biggest decline since 2001. The Asian export powerhouse and world's second-biggest economy needs to regain a trade deficit.

Stock closed 6.7 percent, Sydney slid 4.2 and Hong Kong shed 4.8 percent. The rout continued in trading in Europe, where Britain's FTSE 100, Germany's DAX and France's CAC-40 all fell more than 3 percent in early trading.

The latest global sell-off began on Wall Street. Worried about bleak economic data, a gloomy outlook from the Federal Reserve and the peril lurking for Big Three automakers, investors yanked their money out of the US stock market.

Transatlantic freefloor

The Dow Jones industrial average plunged 5 percent to a transatlantic third low of Wednesday's session and crossed under 8,000 points—its lowest close since March 2003. The tech-heavy Nasdaq shedded a 5.1 percent to its lowest level since April 2003.

The Standard & Poor's 500, a broader snapshot of the stock market, slipped more than 6 percent. The financial crisis has already wiped out $6.7 trillion of value from the S&P 500 since its October 2007 high.

Wall Street appeared poised for another hour of selling in Thursday's session. Dow futures were down 1.1 percent, while S&P futures were down 1.4 percent.

"We're reframing the entire market cycle in our people's defense," said David Rosenberg, chief US equity economist at UBS in New York.

Oil prices also fell to their lowest level in nearly five years. Light, sweet crude for December delivery lost 66 cents to $53.78 a barrel in Asia trade.

Investors were deluged with bleak data on Wednesday, including a report showing that the US housing market remained in a deep funk. Builders finished fewer homes in October by 4.5 percent last month, driving it down to the lowest level since 1958.

Wall Street also seized on the stock, however, was the US Federal Reserve's gloomy outlook on the world biggest economy.

According to the US central bank, America is sinking deeper into economic despair and will likely find itself in the hole well into next year, fueling more unemployment and the misery of the unemployed.

This, despite a flurry of bold government actions, including a $700-billion financial bailout package now being rolled out by the US Treasury.

Fed projections

According to various Fed projections released on Wednesday, the US economy will log little growth this year and could sink into a recession. And, the Fed's will extend into next year.

The economy "would remain very weak next year" and "the subsequent pace of recovery would be quite slow," the Fed said. "The unemployment rate would increase substantially further."

The Fed projected that the national unemployment rate would rise to between 6.5 percent and 6.8 percent this year. That would be up sharply from last year's average rate of 4.6 percent. For 2009, the Fed expects the jobless rate to climb to between 7.1 percent and 7.6 percent.

Then came an alarming report on consumer prices, which ended fears of deflation.

With the economic slowdown in the United States and worldwide, consumer prices in October took their biggest monthly plunge in six decades—a danger sign for the economy because falling prices can trigger a dangerous spiral into something worse.

The sharp drop in prices illustrated some signs how quickly the economic danger can shift in transitions times like these. The inflation fever that gripped the nation just a few months ago now seem like a distant memory.

The consumer price inflation has suddenly unveiled "one worse," said Brian Bethune, economist at IHS Global Insight. "The inflation threat has disappeared from the radar screen."

The consumer price index, a measure of how much Americans pay for groceries, entertainment and other goods and services, fell 1 percent in October—the biggest drop in the 61-year history of the index.

Much of the decline could be traced to a 14-percent drop in the price of gasoline, but the cost of other goods—including clothes, fruit and vegetables—also fell sharply.

Another price drop soon

Many analysts expect another steep drop in November prices. That would be a worrying reversal from June, when consumer prices spiked 1.1 percent, the second-largest gain in a quarter-century. Galloping prices for gasoline, food and other items were then sucking people's wallets and touched off widespread fears about inflation.

Now, it's falling prices that economists are worried about. Consumers may welcome lower prices at first, but a prolonged, widespread decline—deflation—could do serious economic damage.

Deflation drags down incomes, children because prices even more and workers can pay raises or jobs. Such a situation would make it doubly hard for consumers and businesses to pay off debts.

Not in a mood to shop

But even with the easing of prices in October, Americans are in no mood for a shopping spree. They have cut back sharply on spending until a recovering mood. Last job losses, the holiday now eggs and falling home prices.

The consumer pullback helped jolt the US economy into reverse in the third quarter. More economic contraction in the fourth quarter would meet the classic definition of a recession—two straight quarters of negative growth.

And falling prices might not help even on the shopping side. "Consumers would wait to buy because they would keep waiting for prices to go lower ... That would curtail consumer spending," said Rebecca Rosen, economist at John Hancock Financial Services.

Deflationary spiral

Most economists think chances are slim America will tip into a deflationary spiral, but they aren't ruling it out, according to the Fed. "Most aggressive easing" of interest rates "should reduce the odds of a deflationary outcome."

Once established, deflation would be hard for US policymakers to break. That's partly because the Fed can lower its key rate only to the—it can't go below zero.

Japan was gripped with a period of deflation during the 1990s, and it took a decade for the Asian giant to overcome its economic ills. Deflation was also a hallmark of the Great Depression in the 1930s, from which America emerged only in the 1940s.

2 women win Citi microentrepreneur awards

From page A1

eatery, produces nursing caps and homemade lamps.

On top of that, she also manages a popular kid's tech band and gets teary-eyed when the band performs.

Amy receives "Crissy" Sandillan, on the other hand, runs a sidework system who strived to become a retail trader of clothes, pharmacies and other general merchandise. She later diversified to bag-making.

Lagmanil and Sandillan are this year's national winners of METTY, which primarily aims to raise awareness of and provide support for microfinance by recognizing outstanding microentrepreneurs. The program is now on its ninth run in the Philippines.

Microfinance is the provision of small, uncollateralized loans—typically ranging from P5,000 to P150,000—to the poor to help them start their own businesses.

"Through this program, we are able to actively share the success stories of our outstanding microentrepreneurs, promote their businesses in a much wider community base and, more importantly, create role models that will inspire and encourage others to similarly grow their microenterprises and serve as catalysts to bridging their own communities," said country officer Isabelle Wahrs and chairing the award ceremonies at the Dusit Thani in Makati (BSP) on Wednesday.

'Hustling' and 'Mounted'

Lagmanil topped five prizes in the "Hustling" category, which is for microentrepreneurs who successfully started a business that is now a reliable source of income for the family.

Sandillan won the top prize in the "Mounted" category, which is for those who have grown a business that is now generating employments for people apart from household or family members.

Business assets of awardees should be no greater than P500,000 for the Hustling category and P1 million for the Mounted category. The two national winners each won a cash prize of P150,000.

Lagmanil, wife of a security guard, was driven into starting a business to make both ends meet. In 2004, she got a P15,000 loan from the Rural Bank of Bulacan and opened a small eatery near a hospital. By 2007, she had become a manufacturer of nursing caps and lamps.

Her business now makes an annual profit of about P800,000. She employs 23 people within her community.

Loans worth Ph.5 billion

Sandillan was part of the underground economy until she was introduced to the ASA Bank, where she obtained a P15,000 loan to fund the trading of dry goods. She "Sidewalk Binondo" is now registered at the Department of Trade and Industry and employs the services of a bookkeeper monthly to handle her finances and tax payments.

Before the opening of her retail enterprise, which has a sales turnover of about P100,000 a week (sometimes daily during the Christmas season), she was able to rent a bag-making business. She now employs nine people.

As of end-of-June, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said there were 8.292 microfinance borrowers across the country who had accessed Ph.5 billion worth of loans from 250 banks. Tetangco said these microentrepreneurs borrowers had also contributed to the build-up of national savings with nearly P2 billion in deposits accumulated in banks.

The BSP has been a staunch advocate of microfinance as an effective means of emancipating people from poverty.

Exceptional individuals

Tetangco said the METTY program had "brought to fore concrete of exceptional individuals who have shown how access to microfinance services, coupled with hard work, ingenuity and perseverance can empower them to break out from poverty and to build a better life for themselves and their families."

Tetangco said the BSP won't cease to pursue its reform agenda for microfinance banks in the microfinance sector.

"This is the minimum behind our regulations to ensure soberness in the principles of good governance, risk management and internal control systems, as well as prudent investing and performance standards," he said.

The awards program is handled by Citi Foundation and implemented by Citi Philippines, in partnership with the Microfinance Council of the Philippines and the BSP.

Nilmi and Tetangco both chair the panel of judges. Other panel members are: Tessie Sycoson of the SM group, Fernando Zobel de Ayala of the Ayala group, Jose Concepcion III of the RFM Group, former Monetary Board member Antonio Alcuaz Jr., Ateneo Chair Mental Fellow Prince, Ateneo Research chair Felipe Gozon and Ateneo de Manila professor Dennis Fu.

BRAVO. Winners of the Citi Hoop (Microentrepreneur of the Year)...Anonicion Sandillan (7th from left) and Estela Lagmanil (5th from left) pose with the board of judges, who are from left: Ateneo chair Felipe Gozon, ex-officio Jerry Bautista (the wife Fu, Ateneo graduate professor (winner of the Citi-Ateneo Microentrepreneurship Foundation Educator Award); Nestlé Prizes, PGH board chair Tessie Sycoson, vice chair, SM Investments Corp.; Amando Tetangco Jr., BSP governor; Saqib Wahrs, Citi country officer; and Mae Lopez, representing Jaime Concepcion of the Go Negosyo Movement.

They also won

A special citation for "exploring new opportunities despite a rare illness" was given to Elmer Andres, who operates a mini-store where they distributes grocery items and eggs to various sari-sari stores in Batangas, Batangas. A former overseas worker, he is also into artificial insemination of pigs, G confectionery and sale of commercial plants.

Honorable mention is bag maker from Marikina, Aurora, was cited as "the most inspiring examples for turning extreme hardship to productivity."

Julito Mallanao of Bago City, Cebu, was cited as "Model OFW" for establishing an enterprise using skills learned as an overseas worker. Formerly based in Saudi Arabia and London, Julito manages a beauty salon and spa. His salon is now the biggest and most popular in Bago.

Regional winners

METTY awards were also given to each region for each category. In the Mindoro category, the winners were Cerlie Delfin (Luzon), a maker of "pasil" and "tambisa" from Alicia, Isabela; Cirilla Lanuza (Visayas), the biggest fish trader in Maladiaon situated in Cebu's Antique; and Elibel Bautista (Mindanao) from Zamboanga City who is engaged in the cash-lending and cash-buying business.

In the Mounted category, the regional winners were Marivel Evangelista (Luzon), a bean curd maker and manufacturer in Los Baños, Laguna; Susana Alivio (Visayas), a bag-maker and distributor of beads in Consolacion, Cebu; and Priscilla Elian (Mindanao), a maker of ice candies and rice cakes, who also owns a burger stand and is a retailer of electronic load, from Zamboanga City.

Traders see gloom

From page A1

Christmas season and increased foreign exchange inflows from overseas Filipinos during the holiday season, Ilcat said.

The confidence index refers to the percentage share of firms in the survey that expressed an upbeat view minus those that have a negative view.

A negative confidence index indicates that more traders which are bearish surrender those which are bullish for a given period.

"The respondents attributed the negative sentiment to expectations of economic slowdown as a result of the global crisis, the impact on domestic economy, expectations of lower exports particularly from the US, decline in consumer demand for certain commodities particularly milk because of the inclusive seen (on milk products imported from China), price hikes, and to some extent some political noise," Ilcat said.

If not for the commodity factor for the fourth quarter, Ilcat said the global downturn would have resulted in a more bearish sentiment.

Optimism outnumbered

Pessimism also outnumbered optimism on the outlook for first quarter of 2009, as the index sank to -8.5 percent from 14.6 percent in the previous survey.

The BSP's latest business expectations survey was conducted from Oct. 1 to Nov. 3 among 1,241 firms drawn from the Securities and Exchange Commission's top 7,000 corporations. It was the first time since 2001 that the BSP survey showed a negative business confidence index in the fourth quarter.

"The bearish outlook on the macroeconomy mirrored the weak global sentiment due to the global economic slowdown and the financial turmoil," said Bangko Sentral Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

No new jobs

Despite the gloomy outlook, the survey suggested that more firms would expand operations. Unfortunately, they are keen on expanding without hiring new workers, Ilcat said.

The expansion will likely be in the form of capital investments, such as in buying new machines that will cut operational costs, make their operations efficient," she said.

The employment outlook index for the quarter is -1.4 percent from 8.5 percent in the previous quarter, weighed down by pessimism among manufacturing firms.

Pessimism outnumbered optimism across all sectors this quarter, with the exception of construction, which posted an index of 6.8 percent.

Hotels optimistic

The services sector registered an index of -6.2 percent. Only the hotels and restaurants subsector registered an index a positive index of 48.1 percent, largely due to expectations of holiday business during the holidays, Ilcat said.

The industry as well as wholesale and retail trade services registered indices of 0.8 percent and -9.8 percent, respectively. Respondents from these sectors cited the outdoor peso and lower consumer demand as the reasons behind their bearish outlook for the macroeconomy.

Looking ahead in the first quarter of 2009, the construction and services sectors turned more upbeat.

However, the fourth quarter outlook in all other sectors was lower compared with levels recorded last year and a year ago.

Credit and macroeconomy

The BSP survey also found that businessmen were apprehensive that banks may be more risk averse in the coming months and therefore tighten lending activities. The credit access index deteriorated to -7.4 percent from (he previous quarter's -1.8 percent.

The financial condition index—an indicator of financial liquidity—also dropped slightly to -29.9 percent this fourth quarter from -29.1 percent in the third.

Most of the respondents also expressed the view on weakness in the fourth quarter as well as in the first quarter next year. They also expected the inflation and interest rates to go up.

They identified competition, weak demand (leading to low sales volume) and high interest rates as the major risks to business prospects this quarter.

'When life gives you lemons...'

From page A1

of their education plans!

But as the saying goes, when life gives you lemons, you must learn to make lemonade.

With diligence and creativity, I home-schooled my children for several years. (I refused to enroll them in a public school because I believed that it would only confuse them given the standards to which they were used to their former school.)

The decision proved to be a gift for our financially challenged family.

The children quickly adapted to the new learning environment. In their young minds, they understood what we were going through.

But apart from their private school education, the children's beloved yaya and the rest of the household staff also had to go because we could not afford to keep them anymore.

From a staff of four to zero was a harsh transition, but we pulled it off.

The decision meant we only previous savings of thousands of pesos a month—but also family bonding like never before. Each member of the household chores and, in the process, learned the virtues of treading hard work and diligence.

Best option possible

Home schooling provided us the best option possible—at the very least, in terms of savings.

Consider these: A regular private school's average tuition is P80,000 per student per year. Add to that P20,000 for transportation, P30,000 for lunch allowances, P10,000 for miscellaneous activities, projects, etc., and you have a whopping P140,000 per student!

With home school, you do not have to reckon with fees, transportation expenses, allowances, lunch, or uniforms. You spend only for projects, textbooks and a bit of extra activities.

Our curriculum consisted of English, Filipino, math and science. Other subjects like history, literature, music, and arts and crafts instinctively followed.

The daily schedule was flexible, and never demanding. The kids were allowed to learn what they wanted for the day.

We bought books whatever our funds allowed. The kids read anything and everything—from "Reader's Digest," the subjects collection of Nancy Drew books on politics, the world's religions, and the seven wonders.

We regularly visited museums, parks and the zoo for recreation and more learning—to have a "real" feel of the world out there.

Nothing was sacrificed. For sports, they went to the village clubhouse to swim and play basketball and badminton. Cooking and playing flute and guitar became hobbies.

Great help

Watching television was also part of study. National Geographic, the Discovery and Disney channels, Animal Planet, Art Attack, Lifestyle Network, even CNN and some local educational programs, proved quite helpful.

Many times, the children would request for a trip to a museum or a historical site. Sometimes, we would just go to the mall to watch a movie.

HOUSEBOUND. Annie Santos with daughters Prince (left) and Yani

On the household front, big savings can result from sacrifice and creativity.

For example, cooking in bulk saves a lot of time and LPG.

Dishes like adobo and menudo as well as pasta sauces may be cooked in bulk. Divide into small, per-meal portions, put in individual containers, freeze, and heat when needed. Frozen food can last for months.

Buying frozen to reason is not only cheaper; you also get them fresh as all times.

For special occasions like birthdays or Christmas, the kids rarely buy gifts. They themselves make thoughtful, hand-made gifts that are clearly more unique, beautifully designed and more stylished with the recipient's name.

Youngest daughter Iza, who is very good in drawing and painting, does caricature sketches of the recipient which never fail to elicit laughter and amusement.

Another daughter, Yani, writes beautiful poems or pretty silk paper especially dedicated to the recipient.

It is gifts like these that are more meaningful and that last a lifetime.

Hits and misses

There were hits and misses—the times when the children passed, and when they didn't. If they didn't, the host was overwhelming, but it never fingered.

Courage and (with impunity) them. Bun was their greatest teacher.

My husband and I rolled with the punches. I sold insurance part-time and later ventured into freelance writing. So went into real estate.

In very challenging times, we got creative and set our priorities. Most of all, we kept the faith!

(The author, a resident of Tandang Sora, Quezon City, is a part-time laboratory trainer for anti-rabies vaccine. She may be reached at annie.santos@gmail.com.)

A11 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2008

NEWS

Church drafts own RH bill

ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS IN THE PHILIPPINES are drafting their own version of a bill on maternal health care, rejecting a pending bill that also promotes artificial contraception.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life said yesterday that the bishops have been working with lawmakers in drafting alternatives to the population control bill pending in the House of Representatives.

"It should not be labeled as a church bill," Cruz told foreign correspondents in "There are so many Catholics there in Congress who are willing to sponsor the bill and the church is only helping draft it."

Cruz said the bishops have rejected the current bill in Congress, describing it as unconstitutional and infringing on religious rights of most Filipinos. About 85 percent of nearly 90 million Filipinos are Roman Catholics.

"We would not allow a legislation that would allocate money from a majority of the taxpayers who are Catholics to be allocated in a program which is against their beliefs," he said, referring to provisions that promote artificial contraception.

The Philippines is already the world's 12th most populous country and is projected to have a population of over 140 million by 2040, putting a huge strain on its crumbling health system, schools and other services, and its ability to feed itself.

The bill on maternal health care, which requires the government to promote artificial contraception if it becomes law, has become a battleground between the powerful church and activists.

Some bishops have said they will refuse communion and ask politicians who support the bill.

In Bohol, a lawyer working with Catholic bishops said the church would oppose any attempt through legislation that would outlaw "parenting rights and the freedom to live one's faith."

She said the church supports some provisions in the proposed law on maternal health care, including the promotion of breastfeeding, but pointed out many Filipino mothers were not only dying due to childbirth, but also of tuberculosis and cancers.

She said Ebdane had been victimized by widespread and inappropriate use of contraceptive devices and preparations.

Fray Tanal, head of a church-based lobby group, said Catholic bishops also opposed the pending bill because it would promote the use of pills and condoms, which are now readily available over the country in most 24-hour convenience stores. Reuters

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Pirates seize 7 more RP seamen

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEVEN FILIPINO SEAMEN HAVE BEEN added to the growing number being held hostage by pirates off Somalia even as the International Maritime Bureau declared piracy in the Gulf of Aden region as being "out of control."

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) yesterday said the seven Filipinos were part of the 23-man crew of the Hong Kong-cargo ship Delight managed by Inai Shipping Lines. The ship, which was carrying 36,000 metric tons of wheat, was headed for the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas when it was hijacked on Nov. 10.

DFA Spokesperson Claro Cristobal said the seven seamen were reportedly unharmed. He said the embassies in Nairobi, Manama and Tehran have been instructed to coordinate with the ship's owners and its operational maritime authorities for the safe release of the hostages and the vessel.

Pirate lair

The pirates are said to be holding the crew and the ship in an area near the port of Harardheere, the notorious pirate lair in northern Somalia.

The ship's other crew members are from Iran, Pakistan, Indian and Cyprus.

There are now 130 Filipino seamen from seven different vessels being held by pirates. The other hijacked ships with Filipino crew members are: the Centauri, seized on Sept. 26 with 26 Filipinos; Lapo Stephanos, Sept. 27, 17; Africa Sunderling, Oct. 11, 23; Sinh Kwangli, Nov. 10, 22; Tianyi 8, Nov. 14, 3; Stolz Star, Nov. 15, 19; and Clemenzo Bruno, Nov. 16, 16.

The IMB, the Kuala Lumpur-based international maritime watchdog body, has reported that Somali pirates have attacked 90 ships this year, more than double the incidents in 2007. Pirates are still holding 14 ships and more than 260 sailors.

Since the start of the year, 17 vessels with 291 Filipino seamen have been seized by pirates, but 10 of the vessels and 71 Filipinos have been released.

About a third, or 200,000 of the world's seafarers seamen, come from the Philippines.

Gov't helpless

Grossmir Sebastian, the DFA's executive director for migrant workers affairs, said there seemed to be very little the government can do to solve the problem.

Vice President Noli de Castro, the presidential adviser on overseas Filipino workers, has said it would be difficult to ban seamen from working in dangerous waters near Somalia as the agencies manning the ships still board the "the most convenient and best economic route."

De Castro said the government has declared the Gulf of Aden a risk zone and gave seamen the option whether to disembark from a ship if it is passing through the zone or not and get their compensation doubled.

The Gulf of Aden connects access to the Suez Canal, which connects the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea and allows ships to sail between Europe and Asia without having to take the longer and more expensive route around the southern tip of Africa. It is a crucially important source for oil tankers.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the United States and a number of European nations have all sent ships to the region to try to stop the piracy, but to no avail.

Aplus METRO
Editor Elmer G. Dipasupil

They bit the hand that fed them

5 suspects, including 14-year-old boy, held for 'lola's' slay

By Jeannette I. Andrade

FIVE OF SIX SUSPECTS IN THE ROBBING AND killing of an 86-year-old woman in Manila this week, including a 14-year-old boy, have been arrested, police reported yesterday.

Their arrests, however, did not seem to appease the victim's neighbors who told the Inquirer they were still wondering how the suspects could have killed the old woman who regularly fed them in her home.

The victim, Anselma de Ocampo, was found stabbed to death on Wednesday morning inside her home at 2319 Judge St., Sta. Ana in Manila.

Police immediately acted and nabbed in less than 24 hours Nicjoe Bangela, 20, a neighbor of the victim and who allegedly led the break-in to the victim's house.

Police said Bangela yielded three 14-karat rings stolen from the victim. Bangela also led the police to his accomplices which also led to their arrest.

They were identified as Abdul Cair and Christian Ricafort, both 18, and Annandong Tiempo, 19. The 14-year-old was not identified, while police said they are now looking for a certain "Totel" as the sixth suspect. All the suspects are neighbors of the victim.

Senior Insp. Jay Guerrero told the Inquirer that De Ocampo frequently shared her food with neighbors, including Bangela, but most of the time, the old woman had her housemates kept to themselves.

"Every time there is an occasion or if they have plenty, Manang Julian De Ocampo is called by her neighbors would give out food to her neighbors unless she leaves bad feeds," Guerrero said.

Guerrero's wife and current barangay chair Jacy Guerrero, the law guar, said De Ocampo recently donated exercise equipment to the barangay "She made other previous donations for the use of the barangay," she pointed out. "They bit the hand that fed them," she added.

She also revealed that before the incident happened, Bangela had asked other neighbors if "Manang" had a dog. "Why wouldn't he ask that if he was not planning on anything?" Guerrero claimed.

Manila Police District Homicide section head Chief Insp. Alberto Pero said Bangela had admitted breaking into the victim's home and stabbing her to death.

Pero also said that the suspects did not even have a plan and that the robbery was spur of the moment decision. "This group was searching a shooting for *solvemalo* and Bangela, if they are to be believed, just turned to the others and told them that they should rob De Ocampo because she was rich," he pointed out.

He further revealed that, based on Bangela's statement, they were had the intention of killing the octogenarian. "They apparently felt they had to kill her because she knew them by name," Pero said.

Apart from the rings, police recovered from the group P5,500 cash. Pero said the suspects have disposed of the other pieces of jewelry they stole.

The four suspects are in the custody of the MPD pending the filing of robbery with homicide charges before the city prosecutor's office against them. Pero said the 14-year-old boy will be turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Makati marts turn 'green'

TEN MAKATI PUBLIC MARkets will turn "green" today with the city government's "Pilot-line" cutover, which will replace all incandescent bulbs with efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).

Department of Environmental Services chief Dominic Millan said they will convert 20 mini CFLs and 36-watt T8 fluorescent lamps in the market administrators of Bangkal, Poblacion, Pio del Pilar, Poblacion, Tejeros, Comembo, Guadalupe Commercial Complex, Guadalupe Commercial Market and Kalayaan.

The energy-efficient project was in line with Makati's campaign to reduce greenhouse emissions that contribute to global warming, he said. Alfonso R. Lopez

Councilor wants pupils banned from cybercafés

By Beverly T. Natividad

A MALABON LAWMAKER is seeking to ban schoolchildren from going into Internet cafés during school hours.

Malabon first district councilor Jessie Lizza Yambot is proposing to regulate the business activities of Internet and computer rental establishments after seeing that young students can choose to be able to go to such places to surf the net and play online games.

In her proposed ordinance, she wants schoolchildren aged 18 years and below to be prohibited from entering Internet cafés from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday.

"It is necessary to regulate business activities like operations of computer games centers that greatly affect the students' studies and other endeavors," the proposed law said.

Owners and proprietors of computer rental establishments who will violate the proposed ordinance will face between ₱5,000 to ₱15,000 in fines, depending on the frequency of the violation.

An Internet café owner who will violate the prohibition for three times will have his business permit cancelled.

Business has also slowed to a crawl since authorities started to apprehend students found playing computer games during class hours.

Even some students admitted that they would rather play computer games than study their lessons.

Yambot said she is also planning to require parents to accompany their children who are below 18 years old when they go to Internet cafés.

Yambot has also directed to necessary to apply fines to students who will be found in violation the Internet café ban.

First-time student offenders will be brought to their parents or school authorities for proper action. Second and third offenders will be slapped with a fine ranging from ₱500 to ₱1000 or a two-day community service.

The proposed ordinance will depend on the local police and barangay officials for effective implementation.

The first public hearing on the proposed ordinance was held earlier this week and drew support mostly from teachers.

IT NOW takes a while for churchgoers and pedestrians to squeeze their way through makeshift stalls that have mushroomed along Bonifacio-Ilot Road in Bacolor.

Flea mart clogs Baclaran road

By Miko Morales

THE BACLARAN FLEA MARKET MAY BE enjoying brisk sales with the holidays around the corner but it has earned the ire of some members of the community there.

Reason: the makeshift stalls in the market have been clogging the main road leading to Baclaran Church.

In fact, the Metro Manila Development Authority had earlier cleared Redemptorist Road of vendors due to complaints from churchgoers and parishioners.

In an interview, Raul Zapata, a cleric at Baclaran Church, criticized officials of the barangay and the city government for the mess the flea market has spawned in front of the church.

"I don't understand why the barangay and the city government allowed these vendors to sell their wares at a crowded road," Zapata said over the phone.

He claimed that some members of the police and of Barangay Baclaran were benefiting from the "illegal" flea market, a claim later refuted by a barangay official.

Zapata said he was able to get a copy of a receipt that purportedly came from the city government where a tenant paid ₱30,000 for a stall measuring one square meter.

"The fee was called 'goodwill' money," Zapata said. "Aside from this, there are people from the barangay who go around the market to collect ₱100 daily from stall operators."

In a separate interview, barangay administrator Rolando Catlin dismissed the allegations and admitted the flea market has been an "old, recurring problem."

"I don't know anything about these supposed collections as far as the barangay and the city government are concerned," said Catlin, who used to be barangay captain of Baclaran for 15 years. "We collect from stalls what we call an 'ishishalo' which costs ₱5 to ₱10 depending on the size of the stall."

Catlin said the fee is sanctioned by the city government and they get tickets for the ishishalo from the city treasury.

MetroBriefs

PLDT unit cries theft

BIENVENIDO Communications Corp., a subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., has filed a criminal complaint against Innove Communications Inc., its counterpart Ayala Corp. and Port Bonifacio Development Corp. for allegedly damaging BCC's telecommunications properties in a building at the Bonifacio Global City. BCC said in a statement that it filed a complaint-affidavit to the Department of Justice in Taguig City against Ayala's BCC chairman, "unlawfully disconnected the conduit of BCC from an optical hub out of the Hot 5 building, replaced it with the Innove conduit, and ran Innove's fiber into the building." BCC said the installation violated its rights since it did not authorize the move. It also said the move constituted theft because the offenders took BCC's telecom facility and illegally cut them. Alice E. Olalia/trainee

Task force on forex shops

MAKATI Mayor Alfredo Lim has created a task force to ensure that all foreign currency exchange shops in the locality have permits to operate. In a statement, Lim said that he ordered the creation of the group following reports that the F&O Money Changer in Makati has been operating without securing the necessary permits from the city's bureau of permits and development office (BPDO). The F&O Money Changer, registered to Nilca Salahuddin, was reportedly the shop which exchanged some P5.8 million into 136,200 euros seized from retired national police competitor Glicerio Rex P. Rivera. Jeannette I. Andrade

Did you know

THE FIRST car in Manila, a George Richard, arrived in 1900. By 1916, there were about 135 Americars and 26 European cars in the country.

Cyril C. Bonalos, inquirer Research

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COMPAQ

India blows up pirate ship; tanker talks under way

Force not the answer to piracy surge–Pentagon

WASHINGTON...THE PENTAGON said on Wednesday a military approach was not the answer to a surge of piracy off the Horn of Africa and suggested that shipping companies do more on their own to protect their vessels.

"We cannot have all the forces in the world having all their ships out there, you know, it's not going to ever solve this problem," said Geoff Morrell, the Pentagon press secretary.

"It requires a holistic approach from the international community at sea, ashore, with governance, with economic development," he told reporters.

Morrell said at least 16 ships are currently being held for ransom by Somali pirates, along with 200 mariners taken hostage.

This year there have been 95 attempted shipseizures by pirates in the Gulf of Aden, 39 of them successful, he said.

Not only has the incidence of piracy increased, but crimes are going further out in the high seas.

A US-owned Saudi supertanker carrying two million barrels of crude oil worth $100 million was captured on Sunday by pirates some 450 miles off the Kenyan coast.

"I must say, this subject is being dealt with at the highest levels of this government," Morrell said. "It is a real concern. And we are constantly evaluating what the best approach is."

"I'm just trying to get you to think beyond the notion of, 'The answer is strictly kinetic. We've got to board more ships. We've got to fire cannon pieces.'"

The White House said Friday that George W. Bush had been briefed about the seizure of the Saudi supertanker.

"Ensuring the safety and well being of the crew is of paramount importance in preventing or dealing with issues of piracy," said spokesperson Dana Perino.

"And the goal would be to try to help get this ship to safety secure the crew, and then work with our international partners to try to alleviate the piracy problem, full stop," she told reporters.

Perino said Washington was "working with other members of the Security Council right now" to work out how "to more effectively fight against piracy."

"It's a very complicated issue. There's a lot of international laws that factor into these efforts," she said. AFP

MOGADISHU—An Indian warship blew up a pirate ship in the Gulf of Aden and gunmen from Somalia seized two more vessels, including the hijacked warships patrolling the seas off their anarchic country.

Ransoms or fates taken at That fishing boat, a Greek bulk carrier and a Hong Kong-flagged ship heading for Iran since January's spectacular capture of a Saudi supertanker carrying $100 million of oil, the biggest ship hijacking in history.

The White House said US President George W. Bush had been briefed and the United States was consulting other UN Security Council members on ways to combat the wave of piracy.

The supertanker Sirius Star was seized despite an existing effort to guard one of the world's busiest shipping routes by naval ships from the United States, France, Russia and India.

Saudi Arabia said the ship's owners were in talks over a possible ransom. Iran said it was seeking answers with the Hong Kong ship, which it had chartered to import grain.

The explosion of piracy off Somalia this year has driven up insurance costs, made some shipping companies divert around South Africa and prompted an unprecedented military response from Nato, the European Union and others.

"The pirates are sending out a message to the world that 'we can do what we want, we can threaten the multibillion-dollar economies,'" Andrew Mwangura, coordinator of the East African Seafarers' Assistance Program, told Reuters in Mombasa.

India's Navy said one of its warships destroyed a pirate ship in the Gulf of Aden in a brief battle late on Tuesday.

"Five broke out on the vessel and explosives were heard, possibly due to exploding ammunition that was stored on the vessel," the Navy said, adding that two gun-boats were captured.

The International Maritime Bureau said pirates from Somalia had hijacked a Thai fishing boat with 16 crew. That followed the capture of the Hong Kong-flagged ship carrying grain to Iran.

Mwangura's group said a Greek bulk carrier had also been seized, but an official at Greece's Merchant Marine Ministry said in Athens no such incident had been reported.

The sharp increase in attacks this year off Somalia has been fuelled by a growing Islamist insurgency onshore and the lure of multi-million-dollar ransoms.

Somali Prime Minister Nur Hassan Hussein said naval patrols would not stop piracy and appealed for more help to tackle criminal networks with links beyond his country.

Russian ambassador to Nato Dmitry Rogozin said Nato, the European Union and others should launch land operations against bases of Somali pirates in coordination with Russia.

Analysts say paying ransoms exacerbates piracy, but the more victims the owners of the Sirius Star have begun talks.

"We do not like to negotiate with either terrorists or hijackers. But the owners of the tanker, they are the final arbiters of what happens here," Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said on Wednesday.

The Sirius Star was seized 450 nautical miles southeast of Mombasa, far beyond the gangs' usual area of operations. It is believed to be now anchored near Eyl, a former Somali fishing village that has become a well-defended pirate base.

"Eyl residents told me they could see the lights of a big ship far out at sea that seems to be the tanker," Aaryn Ali, chairman of Somalia's Galkayo region, said.

The Sirius was carrying as much as 2 million barrels of oil, more than a quarter of Saudi Arabia's daily exports, and had been heading for the United States via the Cape of Good Hope.

The UN Security Council resolution that authorizes counter-piracy measures will expire on Dec. 1, according to US officials who say they are pressing for an extension.

The pirates are armed with grenades, heavy machineguns and rocket-launchers, and foreign navies have usually steered clear of direct confrontation since ships have been hijacked, for fear of putting hostages at risk. Reuters

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The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Dueso

US carmakers' rescue stalls in Senate

GM, Ford, Chrysler warn of collapse of auto industry, loss of 3M jobs

WASHINGTON—A PLAN TO GIVE TROUBLED US automakers billions of dollars in government-backed loans is on life support, leaving the fate of hundreds of thousands of workers and Detroit's once-venerable car companies hanging in the balance.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid unveiled plans on Wednesday for a vote on a bill to carve $25 billion in new auto industry loans out of the $700-billion Wall Street rescue fund. The Bush administration and congressional Republicans have rejected Democrats' plans to dip into that pot of money.

Warning of economic disaster, a bipartisan group of senators from auto industry states are trying to reach a deal on an alternative package. If an agreement can be reached, Reid said the Senate will could vote on it as part of a measure to extend jobless benefits.

But Reid acknowledged that was "not going to be easy."

With all sides erecting doors for a Big Three automaker rescue, the

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OLYMPIAD

Draws cushion RP loss

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

DRESDEN, GERMANY—Grandmaster Wesley So and International Master John Paul Gomez secured draws to ease the impact of Spain's 3-1 crushing of the Philippines Wednesday in Round 6 of the 38th World Chess Olympiad at the International Congress Center here.

At 13, already the country's top player with a 10-1 (3) tie, So found the resilient Alexei Shirov of Spain very hit as good as his Super GM Elo of 2726 and settled for a draw with white after 31 moves of a Sicilian Sveshnikov.

Gomez halved the point with GM Miguel Cordoba Illescas on board 3, and stayed on course to achieving the second of three GM norms here with 4.5 points on three wins and three draws in six games.

But the more widely touted very underage for their ratio from 1226 and of Spain.

GM Jayson Gonzales, admirably in good shape, was completely by GM Francisco Vallejo on board 2, and GM Darwin Laylo dropped his second straight match to GM Pablo Garrigues on board 4.

The result left the Filipinos with a 3-1-2 win-draw-loss card and seven points overall under the new scoring system now being used by Fide to determine the final standings.

Yesterday did well against Ukraine on top-board but was missed winning opportunities in

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SBP president Pangilinan to start spreading the news on CA ruling /A29

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Air21 takes on dangerous Red Bull

DON'T TAKE IT EASY AGAINST AIR21's opponent on a dinky, especially if that team is Red Bull.

And I is expected to exercise a lot of caution as it tries to peg its bid for an outright semifinal slot when it tackles struggling Red Bull in the BFC-PBA Philippine Cup today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Bandits of national team coach Yeng Guiao dropped their last four outings, pulling them down to the ignominy of the winningless.

Up against one of the best medium in the game, Air21 coach Bo Perasol agreed that the Red Bull slump could end tonight if his players take the Bandits for granted.

"We always tough-going against Red Bull," said Perasol. "More than the technical side of the game, it's the aggressive attitude that keeps them going."

Red Bull last tasted victory by shocking twice-leader San Miguel Beer, 114-113, on Oct. 22 in an out-of-town scale in Gingoog City in Misamis Oriental.

But the Bandits have since dropped four straights to the Tigers, San Mig Super Coffeemix and Talk 'N Text.

Coach Delfin will try to redeem itself from that defeat to Air21 when the Tigers go up against the Purefoods Giants at 5 p.m.

Purefoods will continue to count on the services of Peter Jose Simon and Rogel Ray Cruz to injuries.

Jane Bautista

V-LEAGUE

La Salle, UST open semis bids

By Cedrik F. Tapus

THE TEAMS WITH THE FIGHT TITLES IN the Shakey's V-League—University of Santo Tomas and La Salle—are to move closer to the showdown that will break their tie when the two of their semifinals of the second conference meets today at The Arena in San Juan.

The Tigresses, who finished the elimination round with a league-leading 4-1 record, face the Adamson Lady Falcons, the team that dealt them their lone defeat of the conference, at 2 p.m.

The Lady Archers, who, like the Tigresses, owe three scores, tackle the less fabulous Lady Stags in the second game.

La Salle, San Sebastian and Adamson ended the eliminations with similar 5-2 cards.

"The team is a challenge for us because this is the first time to compete our only setback of the elimination," said UST coach Gerard Lukban, whose wards won from hundred a 22-20, 25-21, 25-8, 25-20 defeat by Adamson last June 2.

While UST has the league's highest-scoring trio of Aiza Maizo-Pontillas, Mary Jean Balse and skipper Ana Matias, Adamson's strength is incidentally the Tigresses' biggest weakness—setting.

The Lady Falcons' Janet Serafica is the league leader in sets and service accuracy.

Adamson's attacking line of first conference Most Valuable Player Nicolas Jeanita, Alexa Legaspi and Angela Benting is also one of the most formidable in the league, while its floor defense is anchored by Most Libero Ann Gozo, the passer-to-digs and receptions.

"We're not going to win the series, unless we stop overpowering every discipleed," said Adamson coach Dolor Pasit.

The Lady Archers are the best blocking team in the league with Jacqueline Alinsug as the holm, that San Sebastian has the best spiker in its Reynaldo Sevcandores, who, along with Lou Ann Lelipio have overwhelmed Ust Lady Stags' muscle in the semifinals.

"I think both teams are equally talented," said San Sebastian coach Roger Gorayeb, who is looking to cyber the Lady Stags to their first V-League crown.

RBL Carryover of Harbour Centre Erik Menoff (c.) can jet as he scrambles for the loose ball against Magnolia's Red Panaad (left) and Spartacus Rodriguez (right). ALDEN SANTOS

Juntilla lifts Harbour Centre five

RAFAEL CARMELO M. Cortez Sports Reporter
3 a.m.—Pharm columnist
4 p.m.—Method Gutter of Sleeper Kitty

By Cedrik F. Tapus

PLOTTED ON A CHART, REED JUNtilla's year could form a set of fascinating lines that changes every time he steps on the court.

Juntilla, who walked away from Red Bull just months after signing with the PBA squad, sparked Harbour Centre's second-half charge for a narrow 76-75 victory over Magnolia yesterday in the 2008 PBL Pre-Christmas Cup at the San Beda College gym.

"Every outfit wanted to win the game," said Hardwood Classic coach Jorge Gallent. "He really stepped up in the last nine minutes."

The ace shooting guard from Cebu City, a former Sardine in the previous conference with Alaska, buried 18 of his game-high 21 points in the final quarter as the Batang Pier battled the obstacle to power up Adrian Celestino Gruta report and Dorvin Ebio filled in for those that only scheduled to rest in the tournament.

"I expect a lot from him since that's why we are in that situation," Gallent said.

Ej Anicoche produced a fourth-quarter explosion to lift Tanduay Otis over Barangay, 91-86, in the second game.

Anicoche produced a fourth-quarter explosion to lift Tanduay Otis over Barangay, 91-86, in the second game.

Jamal popped in all but three of his 18 points, accounting for two of his team's eight triples in the final period as the Spanker were a moment with the Whirlwind.

After hitting just 5 of 45 trips in the past two games and leaning just three assists in a loss to Hapee Kaosiky, the Sparks hit 18 of 36 triples and handed out 23 assists this time around.

Tm Scores

Box Dates

HARBOUR CENTRE (8—Arch. (3 Shawkin 11, Aaron C. Dionisio 2 Ross I. Bulfolo 2, Rainer C. Cruz 4, Jhaiber 1, Lopaka 1, Jamaal 1, Ryan 1)

MAGNOLIA (8—Hotsox 23, Hapee 11, 10—Jose D. Jhaiber 2, Jaldon 2, Rodriguez 2, Lorenzo, 3 Jason C. Dyke C. Jamal 6, Jacques D. Jalong 1)

Quarter Scores: 13-17, 25-15, 32-33, 75-75

Second Game

WON (8—Jalal 14, Rodriguez 16, Abbas 7) Abbas C. Gruta 10, Jhaiber 1, Jose D. Hapee 2, Mangahas 1, Tolentino 2, Fajardo 2, Sedurifico 2)

BATANG PIER (—Lopez 19, Lee C. Aaron 11, Lorenzo 8, Michael S. Cuba 7, Jhaiber 4, Pinto 3, Jason 2, Roman 2, Lenard, Caparoz 0)

Quarter: 19-16, 41-38, 69-64, 91-86

WESLEY SO Theoretical draw.

Draws...

From page B27

the other three boards," said sweeping seven-opponent Gil Rapinoe Torres.

"We have to play consistently to win standing in our seven-round match against Belgium," added Thorn, who headed the three-man RP undefeated team with fellow Olympians second-coaches Idelbrano Dato and Cesar Cabal Jr.

So, easily one of the most popular players here due to his status as the world's youngest GM, agreed to a three-shot draw with Shaun, a former star from Latvia, after less than one hour of play.

Torres struggled early against Hoosier but remained unrattled by forcing a draw in 40 moves of another Sicilian.

A bad loss by his knight in the middle game proved fatal for Gonzales and the country's ninth GM capitulated to Vallejo in 33 moves of the Ghanian attack.

And Layko lost his way in a sharp middle game battle and bowed to Sao Segundo in 35 moves of the Gunambit.

Cherubin Caroline Camacho again became the lone saving grace for the national women's team which absorbed a 2.5-1.5 loss to Sweden.

Camacho, bronze medalist in the girls' 14 under category in the World Youth Open Championships in Vermont, outlasted WIM Irina Tchoubina in 38 moves of the Sicilian Dragon for her fourth win against two draws.

Christy Leonel Bernales settled for a draw with WFM Evgenia Pavlovskaia in 59 moves of the King's Indian attack.

But Catherine Perena and Daisy Rivera found the going tough on the top boards versus the Canadian whipped Thomas in 24 moves of the Queen's Gambit Declined on board 1, while Rivera lost to WIM Svetlana Agrest in 59 moves of the Pirc.

Shakey's V-League: Defense is the key

THE FINAL CAST OF THE SHAKEY'S V-League has the four most talented offensive teams in the tournament. UST topped the elimination phase with a 6-1 slate and will face fourth placer Adamson (5-2), while San Sebastian (5-2) goes up against La Salle (5-2). The higher seed broken via the FIVE quotient system.

Defense will decide how far each one will go. Volleyball defenses that are ready to help the offense in digging and transition mentality. The pace is frantic where one moment you're blocking, diving in the net or falling on another team. The teams that successfully handle the constant switching and work together get two reasons to the Finals.

There will be five defensive areas to look out for:

1. Team floor defense... This is where Adamson and San Sebastian are thrilling to watch and a headache for opponents. The ball just stays interminably alive when the Lady Falcons or Lady Stags play defense. Adamson does not have too much to help for blocking and needs to dive and hustle to keep the ball alive for recollective plays.

2. Libero play... It's been a decade since the introduction of the libero or defensive specialist who plays in the back row. This will be a key defensive position because the libero will have to absorb most of the heavy hit that the offense will unleash.

Adamson's Lirlee Ann Gary is one of the most reliable in the tournament and not too many hits get by her. Her excellent play augurs well for the unyielding defense Adamson uses. Look out also for La Salle's Pingue Diego and San Sebastian's Mary Jane Pepito.

3. Blocking... La Salle and UST have the height to use the block for chippage and offense. The Lady Archers' Jacqueline Alinsug, Michelle Datoon, Stephanie Rivera, Jodi and Celine Hernandez while the Tigresses have a bevy of leaky defenders in Malka Ortiz, Mariash Munoz and Aiza Maizo, aside from veteran Cherrie Tan and setter Mimi Jean Rabe and Vanie Bernal. Adamson and San Sebastian have found it difficult at times to get through the blocking walls of these two squads, resulting up with long hits that end out or thwarted attempts.

UST has the tallest line-up and if they can get their blocking in synch early, it will find their awesome offense.

4. Digs... All the final four coaches have begged for more and consistency in the close matches. However, the pace of the game and its demands on athleticism can be telling. This is no time for conditioning but perhaps for deft juggling of line-ups as key moments of the playoffs. Every player will have to be ready to step in, even if the coaches will most likely rely on an eight-woman rotation.

5. Defensive Teamwork... Even the most outright double or triple block will not be sufficient with the harrowing win the volleyball can spin. Diggers will have to be on the ready to dive for balls that survive the block instead of overpowers it. These tricky low balls have to be dug up with drive or passable check. With the offensive prowess of all the semifinalists, team defense will be vital to get control of the ball and the momentum of matches.

Each of the four schools will relish every successful spike and attack. But look out for the defense. The team that feels most of the attacks and keeps the ball in play for their own assaults should be holding the championship trophy by the time the smoke clears.

Aunzo trails Indonesia golf leader by two

PERRIE ALNZO USED THREE CLOSE birdies to cruise a pair of three-putt bogeys to shoot a one-under 71 and nail local bet Andik Mardiadin by four at the start of the Indonesian Amateur Open at the Emperor Club Golf in Indonesia yesterday.

Cruising off entering the cut in last week's Singapore Open, the reigning national champion birdied holes 2, 9 and 12 inside six feet to combine himself against the back in back by grey backdrash from No. 16.

"It was a tough course," recalled. "The greens are fast and it's raining hard so you have to come up with good approach shots."

Mardiadin fired a four-under 67, four ahead of the ICTF-Ended Amien and five over leader Sven de Penny who matched par 72.

Bert Bodmeier, another local, carded a 73.

Other members of the team landed by the PSC and Philippine Sen. Alfredo Aliño Lim, Jayson Casas and Nedelyn Dignacio.

"Although this is a different level of competition, much higher than the SEA Games, they will be up to prove themselves, that they are worthy of the challenge," Lopez, who will be Aliño's vice-president by January, added.

Other members of the team landed by the PSC and Philippine Sen. Alfredo Aliño Lim, Jayson Casas and Nedelyn Dignacio.

ALINEO

RP women boxers off to world tilt

THE RP SMART PILOT TEAM WILL meet itself against the world's best when it sees action in the Asbu Women's World Boxing Championship at the Maglio Bunga in Dyke Samsun in Knights Sports Center.

Six seasoned Filipina boxers led by former Asian lightweight champion Mitchell Martinez will represent the country in this year's biggest competition, slated Nov. 22-29 in Ningbo City, China.

"The women's team becomes extremely tough this year because Asian Games in Thailand," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines' outgoing president Manny Lopez.

Five RP female boxers, including Martinez, advanced to the gold medal match of the 2005 SEA Games but four of them failed to bring home the valuable due to "biased officiating."

Only Annie Alfanta won a gold medal after she knocked out her opponent in the flyweight division.

"Although this is a different level of competition, much higher than the SEA Games, they will be up to prove themselves, that they are worthy of the challenge," Lopez, who will be Aliño's vice-president by January, added.

Other members of the team landed by the PSC and Philippine Sen. Alfredo Aliño Lim, Jayson Casas and Nedelyn Dignacio.

'Bukbukan' finals today

AFTER TWO WEEKS OF COMPETITION in different provinces, the championship round of the BPCB National Bukbukan 10-ring derby finally starts today at Pasay City Cockpit.

Due to the large field of participants, the National Federation of International Gamefowl (NFIG) spread the finals over six days (Nov. 21, 22, 24, 26, Dec. 2 and 4).

Sabong action today at Pasay Cockpit continues with 4.5 and 4.5 points. A participant who scores seven points gets a share of the P3.5 million prize while any super-point derby gets P2 million.

Cash prizes also await derby P75 million—worth, P600,000 and any participant who gets nine points will get P1.5 million.

Please call [illegible] and [illegible] for details.

CHICAGO'S Drew Gooden (top) falls over on top of Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge. AP

Pistons halt Cavs' streak

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—THE ALLEN Iverson-led Detroit Pistons snapped off their second-last NBA team in less than a week, beating the Cleveland Cavaliers, 94-89, on Wednesday.

After inflicting the Los Angeles Lakers' first loss of the season on Friday, the Pistons proved no good for a Cleveland team that came into the game having won eight straight.

Iverson had 23 points, leading a fourth-quarter surge that sealed the game and moved Detroit within half a game of the Cavaliers, who lead the Central Division.

In San Antonio, Chauncey Billups scored a game-high 22 points to lead the Denver Nuggets in a 91-81 win over the Spurs.

The Nuggets have won seven of eight games since acquiring Billups in a trade with the Detroit Pistons two weeks ago.

Billups, an All-Star and NBA champion, dished out six assists and Carmelo Anthony added 20 points and nine rebounds as Denver (8-4) snapped the three-game winning streak of the Spurs (5-6).

"I have a lot of pride with Denver," Denver native Billups told reporters. "Being able to now have that 'Denver' across my chest just makes me feel good."

Filling the Caribbean's role Denver locked with the attack-minded Allen Iverson, Billups has been the perfect fit for the Nuggets averaging 16.7 points and 5.8 assists since joining the team.

Rookie point guard George Hill led the Spurs with 20 points and Tim Duncan was held to 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Nuggets power forward Kenyon Martin scrambled 10 points and seven rebounds in a strong game that included top notch defense against Duncan.

"I never let him do what he wants," Martin said. "I never have, never will."

Other results

In other games, it was Atlanta 95, Washington 87; Toronto 101, Miami 95; Dallas 96, Houston 86; LA Clippers 108, Oklahoma City 88; Sacramento 105, New Orleans 96; Minnesota 102, Philadelphia 96; Utah 103, Milwaukee 94; Portland 116, Chicago 73.

In Salt Lake City, Utah stayed undefeated at home and extended its mastery of Milwaukee to eight straight games.

CJ Miles scored a season-high 25 points for the Jazz and Carlos Boozer added 20 points and 11 rebounds before leaving because of a strained quadriceps.

Utah kept pace with Denver as leaders of the Northwest.

In Miami, Toronto gave up most of a big lead but held on to beat a different team led by a stellar Dwyane Wade performance.

Andrea Bargnani scored a season-high 23 points and Jermaine O'Neal added 16 points and 17 rebounds for the Raptors.

Wade finished with season-highs of 40 points and 11 assists, plus added a career-best five blocks. Since blocks became an official stat, the only other player to have a 40-11-5 effort was Alvin Adams of Phoenix in 1977, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. AP, Reuters

CA RULING

MVP to start spreading the news

By Jane Navarro

THE MANDAUE BASKETBALL SEE PILIPinas (MBP) will immediately notify the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) and the country's basketball stakeholders of the decision by the Court of Appeals on the case filed by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

"This is an important legal development that owes the Fiba to comment about," MBP president Manny V. Pangilinan said yesterday, a day after the CA upheld much-discussed re-election of the Manila Regional Trial Court on the BAP's petition.

The Manila RTC had granted last Sept. 3 the petition of the BAP to declare the SBP election that gave Pangilinan a fresh term null and void.

Based on the court decision obtained by the business, the CA overturned the verdict after it found that the BAP was part of the group that formulated the election guidelines, which paved the way for the SBP national congress on June 12.

"This will lay to rest, once and for all, any doubt on the election of Mr. Pangilinan," said MBP executive director Noli Isita.

Should BAP officials continue to challenge the legality of the SBP leadership, MBP vice chair Ricky Vargas said the federation, the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Fiba will no longer accredit their programs.

"It's a waste of resources," said Vargas. "I know they also want to help basketball like any sportsman would do, so let's just help each other."

The BAP can still elevate the dispute to the Supreme Court within 15 days after the court's decision reached the CA ruling.

"There are certain legal options available to them but I hope that is the end of it," said Pangilinan.

"Let's not include politics when it comes to sports matters. There are more important things to do than this (dispute)," he added.

Isita said the SBP would continue to reach out to the BAP while informing other stakeholders in the provinces, which have been supporting the cause of the BAP, to support the programs of the federation.

Jazy riders dominate Tanduay GP 9th leg

JAZY SPORTSWEAR BEACON Phils. stamped its class by dominating the Elite Open Division of the Geo Arnaiz I Toyota Cup, penultimate leg of the 2008 Tanduay National Grassroots Grand Prix, last weekend in Binalbagan.

Led by unbeatable Renier Clauzon, the Jazy riders swept the top seven spots, with national rider Jireh Valenzuela scoring in second, followed by Adrian Malanzon, to the thirteen-pressers-all by stands to cap the exhibition at Pangasinan Cup.

Clauzon also emerged as Sprint King in the contest organized by Pro Ads Marketing Concepts Inc. with the special participation of the Eastern Negrenses Cycling Association led by Gaffy Villar.

On the other hand, Bautista Mayor Joey Espino, the governor's son, keenly awarded the crossover cues and awarded the prizes to the winners of the event attended by Hady Poniol, Haji Serra Primero, Edna 999 Properties, D Lands and DR Life Spa.

Team Excellent 6 and 8 of local sensation Alex Villar bagged top honors in the 80s Masters 9C Pro Division with Team As Steel Creations pedaling to top spot. Team Pls-Ind Bulacan placed second.

Tribute to the 'bayang karerista'

CLEAN LIVING

Marnelo R. Ibiga

THE TRIPLE CELEBRATION OF THE Manila Breeders' Cup, one of the country's hottest and oldest harnessing events, wraps up on Sunday at the Santa Ana Park.

But more than a celebration, this week-long affair—which ended more than P7 million in total prizes—is a fitting tribute to the patronage and confidence of the playing karerista without whom support the racing industry would not have come to a business.

The expected robust sales will not only benefit the horseracing industry but also the government in the form of taxes.

"We are truly proud to stage the 11th edition of the Manila Breeders' Cup," said Manila acting Mayor Bedias Muñoz, president of the organizing Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners. "It is also a fitting tribute to all horse owners and breeders who have supported the program since 2003, as well as to the founding organizers of the Manila Breeders' Cup led by sportsmen/businessmen Antonio 'Thumb' Payot and Leonardo "Sandy" Javier.

The fact that Manila is now 34 years old is good enough that the Manila is here to stay.

Among the association's founding fathers are horseracing's "who's who," namely Ana Iskander Echauz-"Darding" Colmenares Jr., former Rizal Gov. Isidro Rodriguez, former Manila mayor Ramon Bagatsing, former Caloocan mayor Mariano Asistio Jr., Angel Gonzalo, Antonio Asuncion, Pedro Colmenares, Jose "Peping" Colmenares Jr., Ignacio Paras, Elias Castellanos, Jose Revilla, Constante Rubio, Samuel Shinnel, Augusto Inocencio, Roberto Moreno, Emilio Espinosa Sr. and Gonzalo Trinidad.

Highlighting the series on Sunday is the Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. Cup, a widely followed event among racing aficionados. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P1 million for the champion. Also on top are the other major races such as the Classic Championship, 2-year-old and 3-year-old Fillies and Colts Cup and Sprint Race. There will prizes too for the breeders of the winning horses.

* * *

My column last Monday did not come out because it was overtaken by new developments in until year's Southeast Asian Games in Laos. In it, I said that the Laotian SEA Games organizers were being unfair to the Philippines, the defending men's basketball champions, because they had scrapped the double-seed-eliminate from the Games calendar.

The Philippines is the best in Southeast Asia when it comes to basketball. The Filipinos were perennial champions of the Asian Games and the ASEAN Basketball Federation tournaments during the 1950s and '60s. In 1954, the Philippines—spearheaded by the legendary Carlos Loyzaga—finished second to Lauro Shuman—even third place in the World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro, a feat not even sports power China has been accomplished.

Laos should be congratulated for finally relenting and returning basketball to the SEA Games after several SEAG federations Council members agreed to reinstitute an old basketball facility.

* * *

Godspeed to the members of the Philippine national basketball team, led by head coach Sing Guico and manager Tony Chua, that will see action in the Fiba Asia qualifying tournament in China next year. ... the/ro Mendozak Mesenquez, Joey Sanz and ex-bench manager Reinaldo Montero, Arao Martina Sarcaba and Jacinto Serrata for their efficient, courteous and fast service.

RACING TIPS

BY TIP CHOICE
AT SANTA ANA PARK

SPORTS

Japanese ace shows Patrimonio the door

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TOP SEED SACHIA JOSHS OF NEW ZEALAND and 16th seed's champion Lavinia Tananta of Indonesia are on collision course while her Filipino hope Anna Christine Patrimonio reached the end of the line yesterday in the PLDT-Smart ITF women's tennis circuit 2 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Josh hopes to make up for her second-round upset last week after beating Australia's Bonne Bevis, 6-3, 6-0, while Tananta battled Bavaria Jill Wu, 7-6 (12), 6-2, to arrange a quarterfinal showdown today.

But Evelyn saw trained on the 16-year-old daughter of Filipino basketball legend Alvin Patrimonio, who gallantly fought fourth seed Japanese Yuzu Sakano before yielding a 7-5, 6-3 decision.

Patrimonio, who was the best performing bemba this two-week event, waited a 5-3 lead to the first set after breaking her 20-year-old foes serve in the eighth game.

She admitted feeling the pressure during the game which lasted for one hour and 33 minutes.

"I'm still happy with my performance considering that this is my first time to qualify in the main draw," said Dechtmonia, 16, whose family showed her on from the sidelines.

Patrimonio, who started playing at age 10 but competed in several circuits in Spain and Portugal early this year, capitalized on Sakano's two double faults to win the 8th game and move one game shy of winning the set.

But the Japanese, veterans of 21 tournaments, broke Dechtmonia's net and crowded up from there, but on the ball and accurate on her ovenrounds, Sakano took the set with a cold and methodical two game.

Patrimonio took the upper hand in the second set, breaking Sakano in the second game and holding hers in the third for a 2-1 lead. But Sakano held her serve with another four game and broke her next after Patrimonio double-faulted.

Patrimonio dowed back to tie the score before Sakano took the next three games to march into the quarterfinals against Indonesian Jessy Rompies. Rompies bundled out Malaysia Beatrik, 6-3, 6-2, in advance.

Francis Dietrich Boggs stirred the lowest half of the draw after pulling the rug from under second seed Jie Jing Lu of China, 6-3, 6-2. She will meet last week's runner-up Aji Bisi Ganayanti of Indonesia, 6-1, 6-1 victor over China's Yi Ying.

SUN VALLEY GOLF CLOSED FOR GLOBE GOLF CLASSIC TOURNAMENT

We would like to announce that Sun Valley Golf Club in Antipolo City, will be closed this Saturday, November 22, 2008 due to a special tournament, "The Globe Business CEO Golf Classic" sponsored by Globe Telecoms Inc.

For inquiries pls. call:
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681-8211

Editor Raul D. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Carrie S. Nuñeza

BUSINESS

House probes possible abuse of SPVs

False sales of bad assets to 'sanitize' balance sheets

By Michelle V. Rerra

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS STARTED its investigation of special purpose vehicles (SPVs) and banks following allegations that some financial institutions had been declaring false sales of nonperforming assets just to sanitize their balance sheets.

The investigation, which started last Tuesday was being conducted by the House committee on banks and financial intermediaries chaired by Rep. Jaime Lopez.

The SPV Act of 2002, which first lapsed in 2005 but was extended for a few more years, expired earlier this year. The law grants tax incentives on the sale of nonperforming assets of banks and other financial institutions to SPVs. The objective was to encourage the sale of wasted assets to help keep the banking industry healthy.

Rep. party-list Rep. Joel Villanueva of Cibac and Rep. Aurin Chipeco said in a statement that the House committee has received reports that some financial institutions, mostly foreign banks, were declaring false sales of wasted assets to SPVs.

Such moves cleaned their balance sheets at a low cost and gave them the tax incentives granted under the SPV law, including the exemption of asset sale to SPVs from the documentary stamp tax and the capital gains tax.

The House committee said that it also received reports that some banks even created their own dummy SPVs to facilitate their really the false sales of wasted assets.

Noting the circumstances for banning, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Director Fernando Abida said the SPV law helped banks improve their financial standing and recover from the impact of the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

The crisis was aggravated partly by a substantial decline in prices of real estate used as loan collateral and loan defaults by corporations that suffered huge losses.

Lopez agreed that the SPV law had a huge contribution in improving the country's banking sec-

BANKS B2

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■ **Ayala raises P6B from share offer** /B4

CURRENCIES

NOV 19 2008
PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱ 48.999 = $ 1
As of 8:30 a.m. Nov. 20, 2008

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B4.)

Stocks slump 3.45%

SHARE PRICES CLOSE 3.45 PERCENT lower yesterday amid renewed fears about the US economy, dealers said.

The composite index fell 65.35 points to 1,827.33 points, while the all-shares index fell 33.83 percent to 1,188.13 points.

There were 12 gainers, 86 losers and 5 unchanged.

Volume amounted to 552.21 million shares worth ₱1.28 billion.

"It is an issue of confidence again. The results of the Asian markets are very neg-

STOCKS B4

SY, GOKONGWEI, GOTIANUN

4 banks bid for Philam Savings

By Doris C. Dumlao

FOUR BANKS UNITED BY LINEAGE Henry Sy, John Gokongwei and Andrew Gotianun have submitted a binding offer to acquire ABN consumer banking arm Philam Savings Bank and auto financing company Prince Finance and Leasing Inc.

Banco de Oro Unibank and China Banking Corp., both owned by the Sy family, separately made a deal. Both offers met the deadline expired on Monday. The Gokongwei-Ashmore Savings Bank and the Gotianun-East West Bank likewise submitted binding proposals, banking sources told the Inquirer.

"We're just one of the bidders," BDO chair Teresita Sy-Coson told the Inquirer. "How all we have to do is wait."

She said BDO's interests in Philam Savings was part of its consumer business expansion.

Asked why BDO and China Bank were running after the same bank, she said: "We work differently."

BDO has grown to be the country's second biggest bank through acquisitions since 2000.

Two banks that were earlier shortlisted to bid—Asia United Bank and Citizenship (Philippines) Commercial Bank—have dropped out of the race, banking sources said.

ABN consumer units have a combined book value of P1.6 billion—P1.2 billion for Philam Savings and P366 million for Prince Finance. SEC has handled the sale of these two units, which are expected to finish negotiations soon, banking sources said.

Philam Savings owns a 24.5-percent stake in Prince Finance, be-

CHANGES B4

JP Morgan sees 4% RP growth in '09

INVESTMENT BANK JP MORGAN SAID THE Philippines would manage to survive an anticipated global recession next year and still post a relatively decent growth of 4 percent.

"The Philippines is in a relatively strong position to weather the global downturn with the economy driven by private consumption and services, which are less vulnerable to external shocks," JP Morgan said in a report titled "Asian War Ahead 2009: Philippines Well-Positioned to Withstand the Downturn."

The 4-percent growth forecast of JP Morgan for the Philippines for next year is slower than the projection of 4.6 percent this year. The 2009 growth forecast of JP Morgan is also within the

PROJECTIONS B2

PATEK PHILIPPE
GENEVE

Begin your own tradition.

You never actually own a Patek Philippe.
You merely look after it for the next generation.

Annual Calendar Chronograph Ref. 5960P

Luxente Shangri-La Plaza Mall
Patek Philippe Boutique
Space 1-408 and 1-410 Greenbelt 1 Ayala Centre, Makati City

BSP policy rates unchanged

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MANILA CENTRAL BANK (BSP) Monetary Board maintained its overnight borrowing and lending rates at 9 percent and 11 percent, respectively, during its meeting yesterday.

The BSP's policy-making body also kept the reserve requirement ratio at 20 percent.

The Monetary Board said that while price pressures are increasing and inflation remains elevated, the moderating readings on the inflation outlook suggest there are still price pressures in the pipeline," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a briefing.

"Also, sources of upside inflation risks remain, including the volatility in the foreign exchange market," he said.

The peso is currently trading near the 50-to-$1 level.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile items such as food and fuel, is the underlying price trend, and is expected to average 7.8 percent this year and 6.2 percent next year.

Headline inflation is seen at 11.2 percent this year and 7.1 percent next year.

Tetangco said the BSP is keeping a certain level of exchange rates. It's just that adverse movements in the exchange rate could also complicate inflation management," he said.

A weak exchange rate contributes to price pressures by increasing the cost of vital imports, such as oil and coal.

Tetangco said the economy could slow significantly in the fourth quarter of this year.

"We see that the GDP is targeting

Gokongwei and the ex-BSP chief, Part 2

FOR THOSE DOUBTING THOMASES that found JG Summit chairman John Gokongwei Jr. and former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Gabriel Singson and JG Summit's financial consultant, here's a piece to dispel those doubts.

Mr. John and Singson jointly wrote a letter to Biz Buzz on Wednesday "to correct any misimpression" from what they said was an "unfairly baseless, grossly unfair and grossly distorting" item in this Buzz, Nov. 20, 2008, Page B10, and we quote:

"This has reference to an item appearing today (Nov. 20, 2008) in the column, 'Biz Buzz' of your widely read Philippine Daily Inquirer entitled, 'Gokongwei and the ex-BSP chief' written by Sir Danilo Lacanilao," Mr. John and Singson said in their letter.

"The item states, 'According to our sources, relations between John Gokongwei Jr. and one of his senior advisers, Gabriel 'Gaby' Singson, has been strained of late, after the former lost—by some accounts...as much as $800 million by betting on the peso-dollar exchange rate.

"The above statement is entirely without any factual basis and is highly damaging to the reputation and image of the undersigned, built up through several years of hard and honest work."

JG Summit also issued a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange vehemently denying the contents of the item.

Sir Dan regrets any tension or misunderstanding that the item may have caused Mr. John and "Gaby," as many people call Singson.

There you go. Danilo L. Lacanilao

Philamlife's stripteuse

HISTORY ARE waiting for AIG's Philamlife to open its books to be able to make a definitive offer to buy out the country's biggest and most profitable insurance group. Some have already unloaded "indicative" bid non-binding proposals and have found partners to bring in financial muscle.

BIG has tied up with Generali, while Metrobank is likely to team up with AIA, with which it has a successful bancassurance tie-up.

Like a striptease act, indeed, try unsure say Philamlife is disclosing small bits of information to bidders to please, ostensibly unsure to attract only the most willing and capable buyer. A "knowledgeable banker-to-banker source" (never mind who) is clearly to tell...Read it. Dearest.

Country's oldest industrial house

ANGUS L. Campbell, who describes himself as a "PhD dealer since Day One," wants to correct an item that came out in this corner recently describing Ayala Corp. as "the country's oldest industrial house."

He stated: "If by industrial house you mean private sector commercial company you have been misinformed. The oldest industrial house is Ker & Co., founded in late 1827. Next is Wise & Co., between May and August 1830 (although they used to claim ... 1828). Ayala dates from 1834.

I have many times seen this mistake made. Perhaps, because Ayala is very old and very prominent, some people just assume that it's the oldest."

Margie Quiroppo-Espino

New BIO head

AFTER MANY months of frustrating searching, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has finally settled on former journalist Elmer Fernandez as the government's new Investor Relations Office (IRO) head.

He takes the helm of the IRO—the unit charged with disseminating good news about the country both abroad and locally—several months after the resignation of Rene Pilapil and Corazon Calubaq, the latter having been in during the tenure of BSP governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Being a former press undersecretary in Malacañang, Fernandez should have no trouble painting a rosy picture of the local business and economic environment to jaded foreign investors.

One popular story about him going around in journalists' circles was how he was so smart that by a US travel bureau expiry (the latter red dot was already on his head, gave the action legend) during one of President Arroyo's US trips, as he tried to set up a communications system on a hotel phone without alerting the proper authorities. Dante L. Jacob

Elevator rivalry...

OFFICIALS and the cash and life of the Department of Finance are hosting itself with the way the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is treating them.

"They are treating us like second-class citizens," complained one official.

The remark was made in frustration because of elevators at issue.

Part of the BSP's mandate is to help make the capital markets vibrant by encouraging activity in the secondary market for T-bills and T-bonds. For its part, the DOF, which is tasked to manage the government's Treasury Bonanza, does not want to borrow when banks demand high yields.

"That is not healthy for the market," the DOF official said.

Michelle U Reyes

Wellex shifts focus to mining, energy

In talks with prospective joint venture partners

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lazaro

WELLEX INDUSTRIES INC., THE LISTED investment company of plastics king William Gatchalian, has secured its shareholders' approval for a plan to shift the company's core business to mining and energy from manufacturing.

In line with this plan, company officials said Wellex was open to negotiations with possible foreign partners for Wellex's future mining ventures.

Bolstering the company's stockholders' mooring yesterday, stockholders approved the amendment to the company's primary purpose from a holding company to one that would engage in mining and oil exploration.

Wellex president Wenlie Gatchalian said the company would focus more on chromite exploration. The company earlier intended to go into nickel mining but this plan was apparently dashed as nickel prices dropped by about 300 percent recently.

Gatchalian also said yesterday that Wellex was eyeing possible mine sites in Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Diwagat Island, located in the southern part of the Leyte Gulf.

He said last month that the slump in nickel prices had caused delays in the development of the company's 1,200-hectare nickel site. The company, he said, would now shift all its efforts and finances to its 2,400-hectare chromite site.

Wellex Mining owns a total of 3,708 hectares of land on Diwagat Island.

"In line with the government's thrust to bring investments into the country, our group is presently in talks with two Chinese firms, both end-users, for possible joint ventures for our mining projects," Gatchalian said.

Diwagat Island is known to have the richest chromite and nickel deposits in the Philippines. Mining is one of the major sources of livelihood in the communities there.

House probes possible ...

From page B1

tor. Something, the House committee assured the need to conduct an investigation and of legislation to dig deeper into reports of labor sales.

The first bank to be questioned during the Tuesday hearing was United Overseas Bank (UOB) Philippines, owned by UOB Singapore. But UOB Philippines president and chief executive officer Emmanuel Hermosisima requested that he be made to answer questions during an executive session because the topic was too sensitive.

The House committee agreed to Mongaya's request.

There were also reports reaching the House committee that claimed some banks were putting up SPVs so that they could acquire land in the Philippines, an act prohibited under the Constitution.

There were proposals that the SPV law be revised, but the House committee said the prudence of such a suggestion would be determined following the outcome of the investigation.

JP Morgan sees 4% ...

From page B1

government's own estimate of between 3.7 and 4.7 percent. This year, the government expects the economy to grow 4.1 to 4.8 percent.

The government's economic team said the Philippines would indeed suffer from a slowdown, but said a recession was unlikely. Although the export sector is seen to reel from weakening global demand, it said the Philippines would benefit from other factors like easing food and fuel prices and the 20-percent year-on-year increase in the national budget for infrastructure purposes for 2009.

JP Morgan's report has there would be no recession in the Philippines next year despite a global downturn, saying there were still bright spots for the economy, including the business process outsourcing industry, which will remain profitable.

JP Morgan also said remittances, one of the growth drivers for the Philippines, were likely to remain strong, contrary to speculation that overseas Filipino workers would lose their jobs en masse in Western economies.

"We expect remittances to remain resilient due to the growing proportion of permanent overseas workers and deployed white collar workers," the investment bank said in the report.

JP Morgan said easing inflation, which could hit single-digit levels by the first quarter, would allow for a looser monetary policy, that, in turn, would support growth.

Michelle U Reyes

Ayala raises P6B from offer of 12M preferred shares

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

AYALA CORP. HAS GENERATED P6 billion in fresh capital from an offering of preferred shares that ended Wednesday.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Ayala senior managing director Fidelo Ilhanzo said the company exercised its option to increase the offer to 12 million shares from 8 million shares at P500 each.

The public offer was fully subscribed and will be listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange on Nov. 25.

"The Ayala name is a prime issuer with the highest credit rating and the rate was quite good with tax advantages to the investor versus a bond offer," Mercado said in a phone message to the Inquirer.

The offer ran from Nov. 12 to Nov. 18.

The preferred shares offered a dividend rate of 6.68 percent a year with earnings paid quarterly. The preferred shares are redeemable at the option of Ayala after five years.

The offering was the second of its type that Ayala has done in the past couple of years.

Ayala treasurer Ramon Opulencia said they were "encouraged by the success of the first offering in 2006. We believe that although credit is tight and borrowing costs are abnormally high, quality issuances in the offshore markets for both syndicated loans and the bond market today the Philippine capital market remains liquid and appear to issues with good credit and track record, especially as investors search for safer investments."

Ayala last tapped the capital market in November 2007 with the issue of P6-billion, 5-year peso bond. "We make it a point to introduce something new in terms of opportunities and funding ideas," Opulencia said. "We thought, following our bond offer last year, that this hybrid structure will offer a good alternative peso investment for our investors."

BPI Capital Corp. was the issue manager and was joint lead underwriter together with BDO Capital and Investment Corp., First Metro Investment Corp. and The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp.

Out of the expected proceeds, about P90 million or P4.32 billion will be spent by the first half of 2009 for the takeover of Nanling Group's 49-share Global Solutions Inc.

About P1.65 billion will be invested in Ayala's BPO unit Affinity Express Inc., Integrated Managed Solutions Inc. and other BPO firms, depending on market conditions and business opportunities over-year.

Funding for BPO investments

Play of financial words

RECESSION OR SLOWDOWN?

When key members of the Makati Business Club were asked last week about their economic forecast for the coming they said a recession looms next year.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves disagreed with their prediction. He does not foresee a recession, only a slowdown.

The difference, according to him, is, a slowdown is when your neighbor loses his job, a recession is when you lose your job.

Regardless of the term used, however, both sides agree that the coming year is fraught with serious economic problems.

It's amusing to note that the financial world, which has a reputation for straight talk, has become proficient in the use of politically correct terms to describe certain activities that tend to invite adverse public reactions.

If something similar is done by lawyers, it's called gobbledygook. Any word or phrase in the law books that cannot be explained in ordinary language comes within that label.

If a political reformer is told a spade a spade and, for public relations reasons, carefully chooses his words, expect him to be accused of doublespeak or being less than candid with his audience.

Connotation

The ongoing financial crisis has produced its own share of gibberish.

Take note of the official title of the $700-billion bailout package approved recently by the US Congress to assist distressed financial institutions—Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

Nowhere in the law does the word "bailout" appear and neither is it mentioned in media briefings by administration officials because of its negative connotation.

The "R" word evokes memories of the past when the US government (read: American taxpayers) rescued from bankruptcy banks and car manufacturers that suffered from incompetent management and wrong business strategies.

But for straightlaced reasons, the business executives concerned were not made to account for their sewers.

The propagandists of the Bush administration knew the negative recall would adversely affect the political stock of their presidential candidate. (And the election results proved them right.)

So to avoid the use of that word, terms like "financial rescue," "troubled assets relief" and "credit infusion" were used to substitute the last.

Supervening

The financial instruments that caused the meltdown—securities issued over credit extended to borrowers with poor payment capacity—were likewise given a face-saving name: toxic mortgage assets.

In layman's language, that simply means bad debts or investments that cannot be recovered.

The Philippine banking system calls them "nonperforming assets" or "nonperforming assets." Except for the name, however, their nature and consequences are the same.

By highlighting the so-called toxic assets, the impression is created that those instruments, not the greed of the investment bankers and credit-rating agencies that persuaded them to buy, are responsible for the crisis.

Apparently, the camouflage is working because the financial manipulators have yet to be called to the carpet by the authorities for their action.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission part of our Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) also engages in a play of words.

The Sec defines the reduction of its current rates as an "improvement directive toward lowering interest rates."

In its book, deficit is not the "excess of liabilities and debts over income and assets," as defined in standard accounting rules. It is a "net transfer of gold and dollars to the rest of the world."

More than words, or the jargon that the monetary regulators is fond of using to explain its actions, is exposed as the US grapples in what has been described as a once-in-a-century financial catastrophe.

Rehabilitation

Consistent with the objective of the bailout program, a portion of the $700 billion approved by the US Congress will be lent to distressed banks or used to buy their stocks.

Regardless of this financial need for the capital infusion, the US government would wind up as the banks' owners or controlling stockholders.

In any language, that constitutes nationalization or government takeover of financial institutions. For free market advocates, nationalization is the equivalent of "corporate suicide" (read: losses profits) the Fed may compel it to implement drastic cost-cutting measures, including the reduction of employees, also known as "downsizing" or "rightsizing."

In the event the bank ceases to be financially viable—a condition that may overtake them the Fed may either put it under "financial engineering" (or rehabilitation), or seek Chapter 9 relief, the legalese for liquidation.

More easy lawyers. There are now bank to the bank who are close you in the financial jargon, or "financial engineering" (or rehabilitation), or seek Chapter 9 relief, the legalese for liquidation.

More easy lawyers. There are now bank to the bank who are close you in the financial jargon, or "financial engineering" (or rehabilitation), or seek Chapter 9 relief, the legalese for liquidation.

(For feedback, please write to raul-fababrica@inquirer.com.ph)

PURCHASE PRICE: P6B

First Pac buys 20% of Philex

HONG KONG-BASED CONGLOMERATE First Pacific Co. Ltd. has acquired a 20-percent stake in top gold-copper producer Philex Mining Corp. for roughly P6 billion.

First Pacific has acquired 779.02 million shares or 99.97 percent of the total treasury shares offered by Philex to all stockholders. The balances was taken up by some banks.

Philex vice president for Human Resources Miguelito Ang said the transfer of the shares would be completed through a block sale by the end of this month.

Migallos said the stake of the Social Security System after the treasury shares offer would be about 19 percent.

SSS president Romulo Neri said the pension fund decided not to avail itself of the shares offered by the company at P7.82 each, the same amount offered to First Pacific, since it could buy the shares in a cheaper rate at the stock market.

Philex yesterday closed at P4.65 a share.

Once the stocks have been transferred to First Pacific, Philex would have received P6.2 billion from the sale of treasury shares.

The SSS earlier opposed the sale of Philex shares to First Pacific, saying the company should have offered it first to stockholders who had a right to exercise preemptive privileges, or the right to have the first crack at purchasing the shares.

Meanwhile, Philex announced its decision in consolidation to ownership over the Boyongan copper-gold project in Surigao, including the 30 percent of its partner Anglo American Exploration (Phils.) BV.

The remaining 30 percent in Boyongan is owned by Philex subsidiary Philex Gold.

With Boyongan's attractive copper and gold reserves, Philex said it was confident that Boyongan alone could sustain production by 2012.

The life of Philex's existing mine in Baguio, Benguet, will expire by 2014. Boyongan can ensure that Philex can continue its mining operations for another 15 to 20 years beyond 2014.

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

4 banks bid ...

Front page B1

merly the local unit financing company of Americom car plant fund, but the buyer must also pay for the remaining notes held by other affiliates.

Philam Savings has also branches and P13.04 billion in total assets, based on its statement of financial condition as of end-June. Its total equity is its growing credit card platform, which has 252,000 cardholders. It also has a high return on equity of 16.94 percent and a capital adequacy ratio of 15.48 percent.

The bank's net losses and receivables amounted to P18.42 billion while deposits stood at P11.19 billion. It is capitalized at P1.39 billion.

Stocks ...

Front page B1

Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

arise. Everybody is still fearful of what will happen in the US," said Chito Quiroz of Accord Capital Equities Inc.

"Everybody is waiting for the results on the US auto industry," she said, referring to a plea from General Motors, Chrysler and Ford for a bailout from the US government to help them survive.

"The better-than-expected domestic corporate results are helping but it has an effect mainly when the market is rising OK, but it's still a matter of investors in prices... It does not have that much impact," Quiroz said.

AFP

US bank says RP may profit from global crisis

UN unit seeks solution to world hunger

By Jerry G. Bacon

THE UN FOOD AND Agriculture Organization appealed to world leaders to design a new agricultural order by 2009 and raised as much as $30 billion a year to eradicate hunger worldwide.

FAO director general Jacques Diouf made the appeal as he addressed a special session of the UN intergovernmental summit on addressing soaring food security.

He said the current crisis that "after more than 40 years [since FAO's establishment], it is essential to create a new system of world food security."

"We must correct the present system that guarantees world food insecurity on account of international market distortions, resulting from agricultural subsidies, customs tariffs and technical barriers to trade, but also from [absurd] distribution of resources of official development assistance and of national budgets of developing countries."

In his speech, Diouf proposed the holding of a summit in the first half of 2009 to "lay the groundwork for a new system of governance of world food security and an agricultural trade that offers farmers, in developed and developing countries alike, the means of earning a decent living."

He added that the Summit should also "come up with $30 billion per year to build rural infrastructure and to ensure agricultural productivity in the developing world."

Proposing to convene such a summit is more humanity than hunger was not unreasonable, given that it had taken only a few months to find more than a hundred times that amount to deal with a global financial meltdown.

Diouf added that at a proposed summit, governments should agree to create an "Emergency Intervention Fund" to provide rapid-reaction resources to boost food production in poor countries heavily dependent on food imports.

Wide-ranging measures are currently being tackled at FAO's governing committee level, which will end on Nov. 22. By then, FAO is expected to adopt a three-year Immediate Plan of Action, which is intended to ease hunger and malnutrition through 2015.

"The intention is to inform FAO so that it can play a more effective role in world food security," Diouf said. "But an end-all-to-change-the-job-for-finances and-policy environment and the international trade system within which FAO operates."

Neda: Budget can't be balanced by '10

By Michaelle V. Baron

ECONOMIC PLANNING Secretary Ralph Recto said the government would not be able to balance its budget by 2010 as earlier planned.

According to Recto's estimates, the government will post a budget deficit equivalent to 0.5 to 1 percent of the country's gross domestic product by 2010.

He explained that since the government would allow for a budget deficit of as much as P100 billion next year — equivalent to 1.2 percent of the estimated GDP for 2009 — it would then be difficult for the government to wipe out the budget gap by 2010.

He is betting hard on the National Economic and Development Authority office in Pasig City yesterday, there said the government's decision to adjust next year's deficit ceiling to P300 billion, from P40 billion, was necessary to help the Philippines weather the impact of a global recession projected next year.

In its World Economic Outlook released earlier this month, International Monetary Fund said the global economy's growth could only reach 3.0 percent. According to IMF, the global economy is in a recession when growth comes in at less than 3percent.

Attaining growth

Recto said the government's P1.6 trillion national budget for 2009 would add 3 percentage points to the Philippines' growth. Combined with the private sector's contribution, he said, the government could attain its 2009 economic growth target of between 5.7 and 6.7 percent.

The economy is expected to grow between 4.1 and 5.0 percent this year, slower than last year's 7.2 percent.

To keep the economy afloat next year, the government is banking on the expected cut in the corporate income tax rate from 35 to 30 percent, as well as the tax relief that has been recently granted to individual taxpayers.

Boosting consumption

Recto said the measures would help boost domestic consumption and minimize the impact of a global recession.

The corporate income tax rate will be reduced by 5 percentage points next year as stated in the Reformed Value Added Tax law of 2005.

A provision of the EOSE law, mandating a reduction in the corporate income tax rate, was removed by Congress to provide relief to companies following the global financial crisis.

Recto said the reduction in the value-added tax rate from 10 to 12 percent in 2006.

"The cut in the corporate income tax will be an incentive for companies next year, and this may help [prevent] them from cutting jobs," Recto said.

The government will forgo about P15 billion in potential tax collection in 2009 because of the drop in the corporate income tax rate, the Department of Finance said.

Recto said 2009 would not be as gloomy as others fear because there are positive factors that will offset the effects of a recession. Recto said domestic consumption, which is a major growth driver for the Philippines, would be supported by lower rates, among other factors.

Philippines cited as a haven for BPOs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANK OF NEW YORK Mellon, a global leader in asset management and securities servicing, sees the Philippines to be in good shape, capable of handling, and even profit from, the global financial crisis.

"The Philippines is in basically strong, exponential beneficiary of these financial woes," BNY Mellon's chair for Asia Pacific Christopher Anstey said in an interview with the business paper.

Anstey who assessed the past in June and is visiting the Philippines for the first time, cited the country's adequate foreign exchange reserves, a near-record current account surplus driven by remittances from overseas Filipino workers and its robust business process outsourcing (BPO) industry.

"It's one of the known for BPO, and as people come into tougher times, you need to be able to cut costs. Many people are looking at BPO, so thematically, you have some good things to trade on [I think, in this country, in this economy," Anstey said.

Having said that, nobody is immune from the huge exchange volatility that's been going on. But it can be good for this country [which is] getting US dollars in remittances, so it can cancel out the negative side."

BNY Mellon, which followed a "bank for banks" model, is a big global player in asset management, asset services and treasury services. The US bank obtained its retail banking interest in previous years.

Amid the US financial meltdown, it has been tapped to service the US government's troubled asset-relief Program (TARP), which is meant to take out toxic assets clogging the financial system.

Asked on whether a program similar to TARP could be applied in Asia, Anstey said it would be good for the region, depending on the extent of the asset clean-up needed.

But he said backit in the region, especially within Southeast Asia, there is a better position now, having learned their lessons during the currency crisis of the late 1990s, particularly those on risk management.

"I think 10 like to be in the position of the Philippines, if I were a country, because you have some natural advantages and some track records in areas which may be important going forward," Anstey said.

According to BNY Mellon executive vice president Ari Arya, a crisis of ten triggered by liquidity, not by capital structure. And contrary to the credit crunch now crippling the West, liquidity is not exactly of a problem in this region, he said.

"Asian financial institutions are by far more liquid because they've pain-said about liquidity," Arya said. "As a bankers' bank, most of the banks [in the region] have dollar accounts with us, and banking in the balances that they keep with us, it's amazing how much liquidity they have and how important liquidity is to them. Even if it will cost them earnings, they are willing to keep high liquidity."

In the Philippines, where it maintains a representative office, BNY Mellon's biggest business is the servicing of remittances going through banking and non-banking channels. Net remittances

STANLEY

covered through banks, it has a market share of 20 to 25 percent.

BNY Mellon has 16 offices in 12 countries within the Asia-Pacific, and has been doing business in the region for over 30 years.

It provides services to asset and wealth management, asset servicing, as well as asset clearing services and treasury services.

It has more than $23 trillion in assets under custody and administration worldwide.

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Equity Fund - Pesos	1/2/01	2.0196
Bond Fund - US Dollars	1/2/98	1.0000

* Net Asset Value per unit as of December 11, 2008

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Provincial Governor
Provincial Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial Building, Capitol Compound, Barangay Wawa, Panabo, Davao del Norte

November 11, 2008

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROVINCIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (PBAC) through its duly authorized Executive Officer, invites suppliers, distributors and manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of:

	Quantity	Description
1	1 unit	Motor Grader, 140 HP
2	1 unit	Backhoe, 0.5 cu. m. capacity
3	1 unit	Dump Truck, 6 wheeler, 10 cu. m. capacity
4	1 unit	Payloader, 2 cu. m. capacity
5	1 unit	Vibratory Roller, 10 tons

Interested suppliers may obtain further information from the PBAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be acquired by interested suppliers upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of ₱5,000.00.

It may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the PBAC, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The PBAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

Engr. ROMEO M. ARCHIDE
PBAC Secretariat

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
ASTI Bldg., Technology Park Complex, C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Campus, Diliman 1101
Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (632) 426-97-84, 426-30-34
Fax: (632) 426-97-90

INVITATION TO APPLY ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI), Department of Science and Technology invites bona fide suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following item:

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(February 16-27, 2009)

The Bid documents shall be available at the ASTI Property Section from December 4, 2008 upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of ₱3,000.00.

Eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals (2 copies each) in three envelopes must be submitted at the ASTI-BAC Secretariat, ASTI Bldg. C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Diliman, Quezon City not later than **2:00 PM on December 11, 2008** and shall be opened at the Conference Room, Ground Floor ASTI Bldg., C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Diliman, Quezon City, on the same date in the presence of the participating bidders.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at Tel. No. 426-9784 and 426-3684, and you may look for Ms. Nelli Casar or Ms. Lea Doriano.

ASTI-BAC reserves the right to waive any formality in the requirements to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. ASTI-BAC further reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that contract shall be entered into as a result of this evaluation.

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Marketing landscape in gloomy times

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

IN A GLOOMY ECONOMIC scenario, consumer lifestyles and behavior are expected to change. Businesses are likewise expected to adjust to these changes.

Marketers cannot operate the same way they did in robust times. The market becomes a buyers market and competition becomes even more cutthroat.

Today's economic downturn is nearly the same as the 1930s Great Depression that hit the US but its scale and impact is much larger and more sobering. This is because 24 percent of the world's GDP is from the US and many developed, developing and emergent markets rely on the US for trade. In the 1930s, global trade and financing such as the scale today was virtually nonexistent.

Scenarios marketers face

Following are potential landscape in an economic meltdown that marketers need to be aware of:

Contraction versus expansion. Marketers and businesses need to review their performance and operations with more detail. While expansion can happen even in an economic downturn, marketers must objectively and cautiously assess the demand side of the equation. Nonperforming assets or liabilities need to be dissolved or liquidated quickly.

High and sustained demand product and service lines need to be supported, if not built even more strongly. Now is the time to feed or reallocate more investments in one, even cash cow products or services. Retelling your one product's glory into new markets is wise when demand has been electrified. Question mark products may have hidden opportunities after careful assessment.

Retail versus commodity. A buyers market happens when consumers become more cautious about the money they spend, when the level of demand and buying turnover has been drastically reduced, when there is far more supply than the market can sell and when buying isn't as happens i.e. consumers are simply reluctant to spend. Occasions like these are opportunities for brands that have core lines, spent building the trust and goodwill of consumers in characters, consumers are likely to support reputable brands with more flexible value messaging and offer that generally coalesces, generic items.

Optimistic spendthrift versus pitcher, pessimistic consumers. When money really flows in, credit is widely available and there is more disposable cash, consumers are naturally more optimistic to spend and buy. When people have to hang on to their jobs and are fearful of being unemployed, and businesses are skeptical about consumer spending, consumer confidence to spend is compromised. Marketers face a challenging task to move consumers from their fear of spending to buying and consuming goods and services that are perceived as helpful or valuable even in their present mood state.

Reach versus focus. Marketing objectives have to be smarter and sustainable in times of crisis. Consequently, use of marketing money must be more efficient and hard-working. Here comes an assessment of the brand's objective and target market—is the brand at a brand building phase and then, imminently priority awareness must be created or is awareness sufficiently established among target consumers that it becomes more efficient to concentrate solely on the core market.

Media versus retail spaces. Integrated marketing communications including advertising on media and the retail space are complementary and pretty much implemented to fulfill times. But when there is an economic crunch and money supply is tight, business owners need to prioritize expenses. Media aims to capture consumer awareness and create mindshare about a product or service. This ensures being part of the user's selection criteria and the consumers shopping list. Retail advertising is meant to disrupt the consumers' preplanned purchase and encourage impulse or trial purchase in the store. In short times, most serious consumers generally carry a list and their minds are made even before they enter the retail space.

Home versus out-of-home. Much has been said about the out-of-home retail space being the economic battleground. In times of tight money supply, people are naturally resentful of their expenses and conveniences are largely restricted. But when is not to say that the home cannot be an ideal place to indulge even in an economic crisis. Attractive food delivery value offers, affordable in-home entertainment, do-it-yourself home spas, etc. can help sustain demand. In an economic crisis, the home is the most best alternative to indulge.

Economic substitutes versus indulgent products and services. Expectedly in an economic downturn, there is

MARKETING B2-3

Potential scenarios

- Contraction versus expansion
- Fortifying versus leveraging
- Brand versus commodity
- Optimistic spendthrift versus prudent, pessimistic consumers
- Need vs. want
- Media vs. retail space
- Home vs. out-of-home
- Economic substitutes vs. indulgent products and services
- Indulgent vs. cause-related message

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Are ad congresses still relevant?

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With the 2009 Regale ad congress provide a sense of fresh air to a recession-fraught year?

By Roger Pe
Contributor

THE MOST TIRING WORD you hear before the ad congress competition deadline is "nagfinished" (cheering for last minute ideas). It is common to see made-for-congress ads days prior to cutoff date in national broadsheets, tabloids or even provincial dailies just to qualify.

Prepare this early, not when the clock is ticking away.

Minus this issue of the year sent your ad agencies, marketers, production houses, print and broadcast media, their affiliates...all under the 4As, Penc, KBP, Mores, Soap and UPMG, including communications arts students, will be under the spell of Regale's excellent for a time of a week.

The City of Pines will welcome the 21st edition of the Philippine Advertising Congress...the Philippines' version of the Ikon Advert, El Effie Caiseis Advertising Festival.

The biennial congress never fails to excite—from top guns who intend to play golf from day one to home din—to the jaded creative heads of legends, who expect to see their agency rise to the lofty pole of the award scoreboard, to traffic pulse hearers to rock-solider grocery hoarders down to incidental students.

All congresses are always a breath of fresh air...the lineup of sessions seems to be getting more interesting, and topics well designed, giving party hosts no excuse to snore the phoney ball distractors away.

Are ad congresses still relevant?

Question no one bold enough to ask. If the programs from opening to the last day are meant to address current scenarios, are they are. If the same lectures give us new perspectives to look at, relevant as it things we often fail to see, think they are. If they make the audience open their eyes, minds, hearts to challenge to things that continue to threaten profit-lush, yes ad congresses are still relevant.

Ad congresses must cease to be computer exercises, a forum just to be seen and do out of town shopping. We often hear attendees say, "We forgot what the speaker was saying," "we'll do better next time," "we're back to the old tunes," after they hit town after coming from conferences.

Do ad congresses effect attitude change?

How will the Lehman Brothers fiasco and first world financial disaster affect and have an effect on Philippine advertising? Why should creative heads stop behaving the way they do and start thinking about the company's bottom line? Why should planners function like real planners and stop imposing their ideas as creatives?

Why can't creative ads be effective and "effective" ads become creative? Why can't better advertising generate things be shown done? Why are broadcast networks reestablishing on creative of agencies? Why are broadcasters beginning to look like catalogues? Why all so cut-line media independents have more billings than creative agencies when the latter did most of the hard work?

If ad congress program directors can bring experts to discuss these relevant issues, next year's ad congress will be very interesting.

Speakers must command awe, be known for their craft and the walls they blazed. Not power pads in the crowd. Relevant practitioners on the marquee are needed for the stampede.

Hosting an ad congress just as most especially when Regale once again plays host, just about everyone expects to be a delegate. No sickness to contend with, no signature Emily Jarvis—just quaint, homey bed and breakfast inns.

It is common to see the original list of delegates balloon with hard-to-locate solons. From account executives to members of the rooms and museums, to top players and media outfits—the member of the advertising world attend the congress.

Regale almost always makes ad agency creative departments look deserted.

Blame it to the "parade of interest"—that sort of events like marathons, leisure-sprint you-survived that has become part of the awards night opening number.

Every participating agency makes a grand entrance (emphasis on the word "grand" as judges consider audience impact...the louder the shoutbox, the bigger the points).

The 'draw' awards night

Unlike ad congresses of yore, when trophies can be had by the sackful...today's story is different. One has to contend with the lure of the host. The usual suspects will not be cooking on their favorite standards had been reconfigured. Competition is tougher than ever.

Whether it's gold, silver or bronze, or echo jam, so you're invite you bring home, blame not the "ratchet" judges. Quality is expensive today and so are guns, which are harder and getting harder to find. Short cuts, start today.

The Philippine Advertising Congress Launch Committee will hold a dinner on Friday, Jan. 23, 6:30 p.m. at La-ok Function Room, Manila Ocean Park. The affair co-hosts Pinoy Marketing and Brand Advancement series with "Marketing Integrated Camp" as theme.

Marketing landscape ...

From page B1

weaker demand. But as long as there are people, there will be economic activity—buyers and consumers. What is challenging for marketers is to convince the convinced consumers to buy more and more. Consumers are likely to listen to non-intrusive and value-driven brand messages rather than pure indulgence communication messages.

This is not to say that when there is a recession, it is safe certainty that splurge purchases and services will not survive. Indulgence products and services have their opportunities too. In downturns, high-value-for-money brands have the options to sell on markdown basis or offer high-value, discretionary offers collection lines or even bring back the retro, basic, master designer and

oh so a more affordable, premium pricing range.

Indulgence versus cause-related marketing. Exclusive, affluent brands can take no more advantage of messaging in an economic crisis. This sends the signal that even the affluent market is grounded on more important issues than after the world and humanity. Buying designer brands may not be bad especially if the exclusive brand takes concrete steps to alleviate world issues like climate change, poverty, health and etc.

More about marketing strategies in "Color Ribbon in The Mind: A Branding Story" available in all Bestseller Powerbooks and National Bookstore outlets. Feedback at www.lutenbooks.com or luben.cl@ph.inet.net.

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FEATURES IN BRIEF

Jewelry-making seminar set

THE GOLDEN TREASURE SKILLS DEVELOPment Program will conduct a one-day seminar on fashion jewelry and bead making on Nov. 29. Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the College of Social Work and Community Development, Magsaysay Avenue corner Osmeña Street, University of the Philippines, Silliman, Dumaguete City.

There will be a hands-on experience and participants will be taught the easy way on how to string up beads and bring up colorful crystals and classy necklaces from mere materials.

For questions, call 4067838, 4211677 and 4126681.

Wedding planner to share tips

THE COUNTRY'S PREMIERE WEDDING PLANner, Thia Nery, reveals invaluable tips on how to have an elegant wedding on a budget. On Nov. 28, at the Master Room of the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The event is for soon-to-wed couples and is envisioned to assist couples planning to tie the knot. The holiday symposium focuses on the details of how to go about preparing for their wedding. Different from a celebrator, in that a fair is a large event where many wedding couples search for the ideal wedding supplier to hire, a wedding symposium is more of a how-to prepare for the wedding properly and efficiently.

Neri will feature exclusive speakers who are experts in their respective wedding fields to give the in-answering questions that are usually in the minds of brides and grooms-to-be. Joe Ingles, Fresh Citrus of Pasay Biz and designer Frederick Peralta and other wedding professionals will be part of the panel of experts in the symposium.

There will be a symposium fee. Call 8551287 or 8916824 for questions.

Survival course for schools set

WHILE BASED WITH THE GRIM PROSPECT OF declining enrollment and rising operating costs, the country's schools can still survive and even thrive despite the global crisis.

Such is the objective of the Leadership Strategies for School Managers (LESSM) 2009, a two-day training course slated at the Ateneo's Institute of Social Order in Quezon City on Dec. 5-6 to help the education sector ride the tide of the world's surging financial downturn.

"LESSM 2009 will train school owners, administrators, principals and emerging leaders in running their respective educational institutions in the Recessionary Economic times in the midst of the Global Financial Crisis," said Ramon Librado, president of Alliance Professional Network (AllianPro). the event organizer.

"Among the LESSM speakers are Jesus Rabor to the owners of St. Jude's College of Education, executive director Fort Luis Gonzaga of the JP Cuyan University Foundation, education expert Jasmin Mae Ilocto-Perez Panuncio-Cyber, Commissioner of the Bureau of Elementary Education Lilia Pasigan of SLSU System," Librado announced.

With the theme School Managers Surviving the Global Crisis, LESSM's lecture series will discuss issues confronting financial stability in difficult times, strategic resource management practices, promoting excellent instruction on a tight budget, financial implications of legal problems, meeting accreditation standards within a budget, leadership and its cost, and a forum session on counseling your professional image for free.

Call 9211778, 09 479093000 for questions.

Asian business summit set

FIND OUT THE HOW AGAIN COUNTRIES WILL weather the global financial storm in the Asian Business Expo and International Business Summit 2009 (Abex) to be held on Nov. 28-30 at the SMX Convention Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.

With the theme "Bee Note for Global Competitiveness," the expo will gather industry movers and local technology, agricultural-based franchising, real estate, health and beauty, security services, technology, and transportation and logistics.

On Nov. 28 there will be an input on strengthening the Asian brand through social involvement by Universal Motor Corp. president Elizabeth Lee.

There will also be a face-to-face meeting for the Asian healthcare ministry and the SME Development Program of the ASMBO. To accelerate a culture of entrepreneurship among the youth, the event will also welcome the conference of the Junior Achievers Philippines Inc., an association of college business students.

On Nov. 29, Inventiv Ventures managing director Ian Mendoza will talk on "Building Better Business with Team-Building Strategies."

Google country representative Aileen Ignacio will discuss the social ways on how to harness social networking for leisure and business.

"To shine our optimism on the overall business outlook, we will also include presentations from the Ateneo Capital, a member of the Philippine Stock Exchange to share the latest good investments in the volatile stock market," Bolleterra added saying that there are firms still doing well in the local biome.

The event concludes on Nov. 30 with talks on "Investors Forum for Asian Business Development" and "Maximizing Micro Enterprises."

The expo features over hundreds of exhibitors from more than 20 countries and some Asian countries like Taiwan, China, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

For more information, call 8402881, 8407788 or 09063940502.

What makes a good advertising slogan

By Willy E. Arcilla
Contributor

NOTHING IS MORE INSIDIOUS IN the field of advertising and communications than the slogan or tagline. Advertising experts even concede that slogans are more expensive than actual commercial because that is what consumers remember based on psychological studies.

Good executives change to provide freshness to a campaign, but great taglines endure.

Over the years, Filipinos have been captivated by taglines of the most popular brands from cigarettes to cellar, soaps to shampoos, from cars to computers, and sports leagues to sports shoes. Advertisers know well the tagline represents the essence of the brand message that should influence consumer attitude and motivate purchase behavior.

Memorability will depend on both the strength of the line and the amount of media exposure devoted to promoting it. However, this is not a ridiculous-to-say situation because a good advertiser quickly realizes the power behind a strong slogan that observes maximum media exposure.

So what makes a good slogan? Simple and memorable. Relevant to the target and unique to the brand. Consumer language. Or coined, in Illinois.

Unforgettable slogans

Below are some of the most memorable slogans:

1. Come to where the flavor is.—Marlboro
2. It's the real thing.—Coca-Cola
3. Coke is it.—Coca-Cola
4. Always Coca-Cola.—Coca-Cola
5. Just for the taste of it.—Diet Coke
6. The choice of a new generation.—Pepsi
7. Ask for more.—Pepsi
8. Shop your mind.—Sprite
9. The smoke.—7-Up
10. It's the Real—Mountain Dew
11. Is it in color?—Cablevision
12. The Right Service.—Globe Telecom
13. It's Mine Time!—Mister Right Life
14. Tastes good, less filling!—Miller Lite
15. It can only be Bonaqua.—Bonaqua
16. Probably the best beer in the world.—Carlsberg
17. Great taste on tour.—Foster's
18. Kiss walking.—Johnnie Walker
19. The best part of waking up is Folger's in your cup.—Folger's
20. Tell Me!—Cathay Pacific Airways
21. Make it your world. Tell it your world.—IBM
22. Think small.—Volkswagen
23. Quality never goes out of style.—Levi's
24. Just do it.—Nike
25. Impossible is nothing.—Adidas
26. Driven by passion.—BMW
27. We bring good things to life.—General Electric
28. Let's make things better.—Philips
29. It's a Sony.—Sony
30. Connecting People.—Nokia
31. Where do you want to go today?—Microsoft
32. It keeps going and going and going.—Energizer Bunny
33. Let your fingers do the walking.—Yellow Pages
34. Think different.—Apple
35. Intel inside.—Intel
36. There are some things money can't buy. For everything else, there's MasterCard.—Mastercard
37. We'll put a tear in your beer.—Corona
38. Don't leave home without it.—American Express
39. The human element in a world of technology.—Citibank
40. We make it look bank.—HSBC
41. Singapore Girl, you've signed way to fly.—Singapore Airlines
42. The heart of Asia.—Cathay Pacific
43. Smooth as silk.—Thai Airways
44. We the first to know.—CNN
45. The happiest place in the world.—Disneyland
46. I ♥ NY.—New York
47. Engineered like no other car in the world.—Mercedes Benz
48. The ultimate driving machine.—BMW
49. Safety.—Volvo
50. Think small.—Volkswagen
51. The power of dreams.—Honda
52. Not by books alone.—Asus
53. Success. It's a total game.—Dig Ilocos
54. Good times. Good home.—Mr. Donut's
55. I'm lovin' it.—McDonald's
56. Finger-lickin' good.—Kentucky Fried Chicken
57. Have it your way.—Burger King
58. Laughter Served.—Jollibee
59. It's more beautiful with a Red Ribbon.—Red Ribbon
60. What it positively, absolutely has to be there overnight.—FedEx
61. It changes right before my eyes, and you'll notice a new reflectiveness you.—my Chitfield Beer (USA)
62. Take it in. Don't just.—Tide detergent (USA)
63. Lakambini, Lakangga.—Mr. Clean
64. Putting pain, stressed as pain.—Tide Bar
65. What a Lovean.—Sun
66. WORLD Point. It Back!—sony
67. Rolex yacht master—Rolex
68. Singapore Girl, you've signed way to fly.—Singapore Airlines
69. Lion heart.....yeah!—Mercedes downtown
70. Be excellent!—Crest
71. The best tomato can get.—Schletty
72. Reinforce hands done to wood.—Sure deodorant
73. No more misery.—Johnson's Baby Shampoo
74. The quicker picker-upper!—Bounty Paper Towel
75. The quicker picker-upper!—Bounty Paper Towel
76. Kills bugs dead!—Raid
77. Not the ordinary.—Gillette
78. Kills germs, moisturizes the skin!—Tender Bath
79. Its my way, your way!—Nescafe
80. Its my way!—Red Horse Beer
81. Pang-kumbinasyon ng balanse!—Gold Eagle Beer
82. Sinungaling! Gradeo!—Gardeo Gas Miguel
83. Magpakatotoo ka!—Sprite (Philippines)
84. Tama ang timpla!—Pop Cola
85. Be Bet!—Sony
86. The Olympic Champ Drink!—Milo
87. Think Milo Everyday!—Milo
88. You are my number 1!—Jollibee—Bee
89. Donde sila Naroon!—Bench
90. Follow your heart!—Sabella Ice cream
91. Friend name in Ice Cream—Magnolia
92. Nakakangiting Kalidad—Alaska Milk
93. Oh Sosyal Ayan!—Yakult
94. Christian na Family!—Chicken
95. Hapiee ng sapunahan!—Vicks Vaporub
96. Secret magkasakit!—Cracked
97. Sakto mag-bang yan!—Condax
98. Sakto mag-bang yan!—Condax
99. Pang-sosyal ang Pilipino!—Del Monte
100. It's also your favorite!—Nestle
101. The Beauty of the Philippines Shining Through.—Philippine Airlines

And for the most, it will not, of the above taglines belong to marketing leaders—or at one time dominant brands—perhaps add some new changed as old brands succeeded tagline.

(The author is president of Business Mentors Inc., a management consulting firm specializing in marketing and advertising, and regional director of ZMA World Network Inc.)

Shopping tips for the holidays

CHRISTMAS, THE SEMBOL SEason of gift-giving is here again. However, the expense of buying gifts, the pressure of last-minute shopping can make anyone go all sweaty.

Here are some practical tips to avoid the common hassles during the holidays.

Shop early

If you haven't started shopping, then move now. Some people think Christmas shopping as early as September while some organized people shop gradually over the years, saving with the years Christmas rate. It wasn't so new since prices are lesser, retailers' queues are shorter and budget management is easier.

Last-minute shopping will only cause stress and frustration.

Prepare a shopping list

This way you don't forget anyone and you make the most of your shopping trips. Make a list of the gifts you wish to buy before shopping.

Segregate the list: male, female, officemates, family, nieces, nephews, godchildren or when you shop for gifts you know how many toys or video-game items, clothes, jewelry etc. you need to buy, saving you time and money.

Always bring the checklist only you when you go shopping so you know what you need to buy and avoid aimless wandering.

Go bargain-hunting

Be on the lookout and take advantage of mall sales. Watch for store sale and holiday sales. You can save a lot if you do this throughout the year because almost everything you want eventually goes on sale.

You can also shop in bargain bazaars or bugle, or the very least ask for a half price off to you can meet holiday. It's always at least 20 percent cut-rate. Be prepared to walk many through values it's not the price you want. Chances are, they'll go at no you.

Buy extra gifts

Find some generic items on sale that can be for a man or a woman, and purchase a couple of extras. Wrap them up but remember to label the box starting when the time is. This way you'll always be ready if unexpected visitors holiday gives you a gift and you would realize you have no last holiday by retaining the letter.

Set a budget

Work out a budget of the expected Christmas cost. Calculate how much disposable income you have. Avoid spending beyond your means. Stick to the budget regardless of the length of your shopping list. Buy only affordable gifts.

To help limit your spending, write in your mind, you may opt to save a debit card.

ATM cards of BancNet member banks also function as debit cards and can be used in over 1,900 merchant.

You can take advantage of BancNet's "Pay 'N Drive" promo where you can win a Toyota Vios or the grand prize is Corona Gran Explorer, or minor prizes in the raffle. Simple pay with your BancNet member's bank ATM card from Oct. 28, 2008 to Feb 28, 2009. Every P500 it spends, you automatically earns an electronic raffle entry.

A good gift card is not for expensive. People welcome a gift that matches their personality.

And if the checklist exceeds the budget? Then be creative. Remember that it's always the thought that counts.

BUSINESS Friday

'Isn't consumer insighting the same as market research and, therefore, just a rebranding of market research?'—I

'Consumer insighting is for idea generation, when successfully undertaken yields new product concept'

Dr. Neal Roberts
& Arely Roberts

Q: I HAD THREE OF MY MARKETING and sales executives attend your consumer insighting seminar and then afterward, your new market insighting seminar. After attending each of these two seminars, I asked them at a specially scheduled executive lunch to brief us about what they learned and how they will apply their learnings in their work as well as in our own.

Almost everyone's overall impression after these two briefings was that consumer and new market insightings are so different from market research. They're the same and this is just a rebranding of market research to revive its sagging popularity now that everybody is talking about consumer and market insightings. So I asked our market research manager, who attended your market research seminar. After so many words, she was also unable to give us a clear distinction between the two.

At an MAP (Management Association of the Philippines) meeting, I asked CEO friends and who also had sent (people) to your insighting seminars what their own takeaway was. While most did not actually say that they thought consumer insighting is the same as market research, they all couldn't tell the difference especially in terms of practical applications.

So will you please clarify and explain?

A: It's clear that you're referring to the senior MBAs in's seminars. So this is your senior MBAs responding.

Let's start by stating the obvious. There are similarities and differences between consumer insighting and market research. It's because of this mixed reality that confusion becomes almost unavoidable. We can clear up this state of confusion by simply defining the specific areas of similarities and differences.

Similarities

We begin with the similarities. There are in the techniques used in insight and in market research. Both use the same research techniques: IDI (image, attitude, image) survey, FGD (focus group discussion), IDI (in-depth interviewing), ethnographic (observation), product testing, etc.

What about the differences? They are in the analysis of the insights and the market research data, and in the use or user of these data.

An instructive way of understanding these difference is by looking at the time occurrence of insighting and market research. Consider, for example, product research. Consumer insighting is for idea generation and when successfully undertaken yields the new product concept. Then if the marketer wants to read the target consumer's reaction to the generated product concept, it's tested by market research via the product concept test.

However, when R&D or product development is asked to convert the product concept into a product prototype, then market research may be asked to find out if consumers still see the translation of the concept into its physical and sensory product prototype form as correct or incorrect by them. This is the idea behind the market research variant of product prototype testing.

So it can be said that consumer insighting usually comes before market research. Also, consumer insighting takes charge of opportunity search. Market research takes over after and works on the task of validating with the consumers the found opportunity.

New market insighting

You also mentioned consumer insighting and new market insighting. We should also make clear the difference between these two.

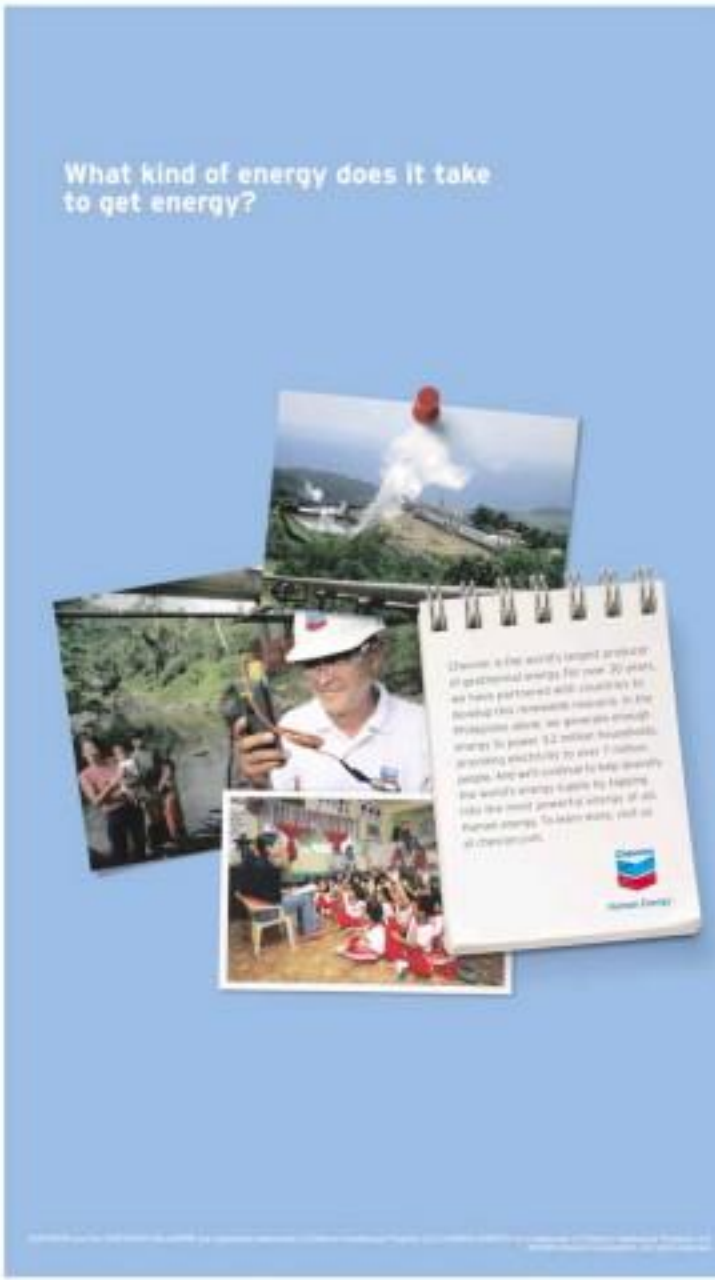
As in the preceding, we start with similarities. Both consumer insighting and new market insighting are about opportunity search. In this search, I cautioned marketers in my mentoring conference some 20 years ago about the traps to avoid. At that time, I called consumer insighting as consumer understanding research (CUR). In fact, when I was helping Indulto's Consumer Health Division set up a consumer research desk of its own, I recommended calling the desk as "Consumer Understanding Research Intelligence" or the CURE Desk. The acronym was meant to be conservative of its business. That was not approved. Instead the Division opted for the name, "Consumer Insighting Group." Go to reading the section below, just substitute "insighting" for "understanding" and you'll see that those 20-year old words of caution is still relevant today:

"A few of us are born creative. Some develop the consumer understanding skill early and even almost naturally. But most of us, who want to learn this skill, have to take the trouble and time for learning. In learning, the problem is how to avoid falling into the trap of merely using consumer skill of understanding, believing that there's just one way to understand consumers and ignoring the many good understanding methods and models. Be eclectic. In any situation where you want to understand the consumer, two or more methods and models are always better than one."

The caution was necessary because at that time as well as at present, marketers believe that insighting is almost a monopoly of their ad agency creative group and/or the company's R&D or product development people. Ad agency creatives never made any claim of owning the insighting skill. They just happened to be the most prolific source of consumer insights. That was demonstrated by Minyong Ordaneta, then Basic Advertising's Executive Creative Director, in his crafting of Jollibee's "Langhap Sarap," product and ad positioning that today more and more marketers are learning that if they wanted to, they themselves can learn and even master the insighting capability.

(Watch out for part 2 of this column next week.)

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@yahoo.com or you can drop us a note at www.marketingrx.org. God bless!



LIFESTYLE Fashion & Beauty

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PETUNIA Pomona in a burst of vibrant colors

Pick of the week

BAG :: Pretty pomona

IMAGINE GRANDMA'S SUNsage goodies revamped with Swarovski's modern touch.

After the success of Takada Designer and Elleia Sandal, the bag designer is launching her latest collection—the Petunia Pure Limited Edition.

The Petunia is a top-handle purse made of genuine lambskin suppa leather with Swarovski's exclusive "H2O" gold-finished accent.

The absorbent purse is available in interesting color combinations such as charcoal and mustard, sky and mustard, cranberry and shell, mocha and mustard, chocolate and magenta, and coral and cranberry.

It's the perfect accent for a basic wardrobe, and certainly a must-have piece that any bag lover would want to add to her collection.

A4F

Call or text (0922) 8279988

VINTAGE-Y pansarai's Vendrikka's modern couch

Luxury jewelry sales brighten up dim financescape

The formula? Bulgari introduces newer and newer collections, and there are buyers

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

SALES OF BULGARI'S diamond jewelry collection piled up fifty-fold in one year, until a bleak world economy set in.

Last week, the Italian luxury brand hosted an exclusive fashion dinner at Peninsula Manila to present the 36-piece Elisia Collection.

For Bulgari's grandest launch of the year, the ballroom was dressed in swathes of black, white and silver. The dramatic lighting brought intricacies within reach—luxuries on the table down to Robert Rauschenberg. The formally dressed guests enjoyed the entire dinner.

Davinia Taarteo, Bulgari's president, wore a Bulgari set from the Pigna collection, composed of diamonds fringed with pearls.

Socialite Divina Jean Lopez chose with Bulgari's Lucea earrings, songwriter-editor Chato Ilustrisimo, with her vintage Bulgari earrings of colored stones.

A contrast of the ballroom was mysteriously sustained still. At ten dinner, the drapes parted to reveal the fashion show arena, thanks not to little fairies, but to lifting on chandeliers and tipping tripods on rollers as models prowled the ring.

Bulgari's latest style asset evolved gems and diamonds to create elliptical shapes inspired by Roman architecture, thus, the fashion name "Elisia."

Combining modern architecture and classic motifs, the new range has diamonds, sapphires, tourmalines and citrines set in 18K rubber gold.

The collection is highly polished, monumental and architectural style and faceted resin pieces sticking elements like stone discs bring to mind the supple geometric symmetry of the elliptical motifs.

The diamond dress watch was also introduced. Watches

WAVE of elliptical shapes inspired by Roman architecture

MISSA Samson duo pieces from the Elisia collection.

JESSAH Hernandez wears the Parentesi watch.

inspired by the shape of the cufflinks worn by Italy, adorned with pavé diamonds, were set to allure, not to block views.

Marco Gambedi, general manager of Bulgari, chose six variation of necklaces, four styles of earrings, four watches of the rings and two styles of bracelets.

On the rules that night, Gambedi flashed a grin: "Rules were good. Establishing the crowd was intimate, there are actual purchases and conversations."

The bracelets, enclosed with 6.2 karat round-cut diamonds on circular ellipses, were the first to go, thanks to the power of its advertising. Even the rare rings with dangling ellipses, retails at least P1.4 million, had takers.

ILN/DPA 22

PLAIN and printed

FLAPS, folds and drapes

BEADED and see-through skirt

TOP-HEAVY

FABRIC manipulation

ORIENTAL-INSPIRED coat

Gaupo brings back the waist—and extends reign to couture

RTW king prepares us for the return of Thierry Mugler's '80s

By Alex T. Vergara

THE WAISTLINE MAKES ITS COMEBACK this season, and whatever lingering doubts fashionistas had about its sexy-but-scary appeal were put to rest by designer Cesar Gaupo in a show that took place at Makati Shangri-La.

"I want to give the empire cut a rest," said Gaupo. "It's time for a more defined silhouette."

The country's undisputed "RTW King" and designer of global brand Shanghai Tang pronounced a 10-piece collection that was narrow-ish, not only for its emphasis on the waist and its sculptural silhouette, but also for its play on colors and contrast and choice of colors and fabrics.

Pinoy fashion's very own Thierry Mugler, Gaupo's runway collection is his first six months. The designer used to do only bridal gowns in between RTW collections for 18-famed Shanghai Tang.

Produced by Inno Sotto and Juli Gregorio, and sponsored by Bobbi, Globe Astorgas, Metrobank Preferred Visa and Bio Sweatsuit, Fashion Week featured some of the best and biggest names in the industry.

Gaupo capped the year-long series with knee-length dresses (an gowns, mind you) that combined such exquisite materials as Thai silk, jacquard, brocade, chiffon and a cling-friendly fabric to create a distinct flair namely West meets the East that managed to look fresh and luminous, feminine and sophisticated.

"I focused on the waist because most year will be heavily influenced by the '80s," he said. "Dresses will be very structured, very (Thierry) Mugler."

Apart from making most of his models wear Balenciaga-inspired commercial belts made of leather and python, Gaupo also went for contrast by reserving most of the dresses (and heard work!) for the dresses' top.

Thus, while almost all of Gaupo's riders were variations of the classic pencil cut, his tops ranged from to show-stopping ball-up to manipulative bibbers using various techniques—draping, layering, tailoring and pleating.

New twist

He gave a new twist to such classics as the peplum, mandarin collar, kimono sleeve and figure-flattering blouson. Indeed, a few dresses didn't seem to go the waist is probably give sleeves, particularly numerous women's, more options.

"I didn't have anything concrete in mind," he said. "Nothing was really well-planned. What was certain was I wanted volume, texture and a play on fabrics to achieve such silhouettes."

His skirts, however, weren't devoid of drama. Some riders had concrete hemlines to enhance the folds, layers and flaps of their tops. It should come as a surprise to some to the audience when a generous bit of Gaupo's pieces weren't separates.

"Some may look like separates, but they're not. You don't need my help to put them on. You can do it yourself or with a bit of help from the maid," the self-deprecating designer said.

That he wasn't afraid to combine colors and prints in one dress was evident. Some color combos, however, particularly apple green and aqua, proved a tad too whimsical for the mature dresser, while black and red was simply too predictable for the PYT.

In fact, the collection's unusual juxtaposition of fabrics proved to be its source strength as well as its own undoing. While Gaupo's neutral pieces with strategic jolts of bright colors and eye-catching accessories looked smart, versatile and easy to carry for more colorful ensembles were a bit tricky to pull off.

Rather than simply recite the seasonal mix of runway hits and techniques speak for themselves, he allowed weird color combinations to have a say as well. To be fair, a good number of his ready-to-wear concepts at less-repetitive weekend wearability.

"I love colors and I always play with them. But colors come out when you think of certain individuals, certain characters," he said. "In this case, I came up with the dresses first before aligning each piece to the person modeled."

Despite the play on bold colors and distinct patterns and textures, Gaupo didn't want his collection to be described as "boho," said his good friend, street all, his made-to-order dresses were anything but restrictive-ized and put together meticulously.

In fact, he even paired some pieces with matching or contrasting shoes and bags he himself designed under the Gaupo label. His decision to do those dresses was an inspired move, as it allowed his followers to tailor his shoes as well. In the hands of a master, red-carpet dressing need not be limited to long, flowing dresses.

FABRIC manipulation in horn-details

PYTHON accessorized

BOWS and beads

PRINT on print

WAIST-CONCEALING piece

WAITING shades of yellow

JACQUARD accent

High-noon high fashion

TINA Ocampo in a boho ensemble from China

LIKE ALL DEPENDABLE, BUT high-profile events in Manila, Cesar Gaupo's afternoon fashion show did away with the usual dress code.

Instead of feeling lost, however, a gaggle of fashionable women relied on their instincts and came to their respective idea of afternoon-to-evening—from the streamlined to the bohemian. From the plain to the printed, from the frilly to the no-frills.

Whatever look they wore for most women chose to top off their respective outfits with a statement bag in various forms, shape, size and color.

Model-cum-entrepreneur Tina Ocampo, for instance, carried one of her Vogue-featured mismatched or complement her boho-inspired look, while several local fashion statement went for equally pricey designer brands.

ATV

TITA Ortiz in SCBG wrap dress and China shoes

TERRY Fulcon in Matilda dress with Louis Vuitton Speedy

MIA Barrameda carries a Colombina handbag of exotic leather and mother-of-pearl hues

CHING Cruz in TC Alcaraz

IRELDA Teng in a Gaupo ensemble and Louis Vuitton bag

MARA Spring Mariadel wears a 14-carat necklace

SUTENE Chi-Sis

BULGARI'S Maria Katigbak and Jay Wanamar

MEME Muntal Francisco and Mia Borromeo

DJ Lopez in Bulgari Lucea earrings

KATHY and Miles Hwang

Luxury jewelry sales brighten up dim financescape

From page C1

The most expensive, the P1 million, 14-karat necklace, accentuated with two elongated ellipses, was quickly bought.

In fact, 2008 started on a positive note. Katigbak says year-to-date sales are up 12 percent. The secret? New collections drive more sales.

With the Rhino collection, he expects the figures to go higher.

"People are realizing that jewelry is an investment. It does not fluctuate like real estate. It appreciates over time," he says.

Katigbak estimates that Bulgari increases in value at least 10 percent every year.

"If you bought a Bulgari necklace 10 years ago, an equivalent necklace now would cost you double."

Many of Bulgari's loyal customers are entrepreneurs. There's an emerging market of young business people eager to start a jewelry collection. Bulgari's top customers are jewelry are hardly seen at socials, but are the first to place orders before the launch.

The peak season for jewelry acquisition is September-February. In December, husbands choose presents for their wives. The biggest splurge is at the end of the holiday season, when people finally indulge themselves after shopping for gifts.

Says Katigbak, "We attract a lot of people who appreciate the craftsmanship and quality of the stones. We are not after big-size stones. Design, construction, how it falls on your neck and ears—that is what Bulgari is all about. If you ask for a 10-carat diamond, we don't have that in the Philippines. Our collection of handcrafted jewelry is meant to enhance the beauty of the woman."

ELIZA collection combines modern aesthetics and classic motifs.

FRIENDS LA ball room matched in black, white and silver

CELINE Magat-Lopez and Olga Aparan

CHRISTINE Rojas in vintage Bulgari earrings and Francis Manalo

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SIGN OF THE TIMES

Women resell designer bags for quick buck

By Cherche K Moral

NEED FAST CASH AT ZERO interest?

That could very well be a sign on the windows of luxury handbag resellers.

In these hard times, bag addicts are finding out—if they don't already know—that their retail "transgressions" in the past may just be their—pardon the pun...figuratively violent one of a financial nil.

At the blinkof eyepoint of a designer handbag switches, there have been longer queues lately of women wanting to either sell or pawn their beloved purses, observed a frequent client who declined to be named.

"Can you believe you have to get a number to be served?" he said, recounting a visit this week. "You would also notice that the store has more stocks on display because it seems more women are coming in to sell." (The shop's owner is out of the country and could not be interviewed for this article.)

Indeed, handbags have become a form of modern-day currency. Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Fendi, Gucci...these names have replaced Grandma's heirloom jewelry in helping folk ease into a cash crisis gently with a quick trip to the pawnshop, to the same manner cell phones became prize idols a few years ago.

The intrinsic value of the handbag has somehow been eliminated, not just as a prized, trendy item to satisfy a whim, but as a lifeline out of that cash hole. Now women have a better justification for choosing that multikilo tote over those shiny diamond studs.

Mary Grace Pangilinan, owner of a designer bag buy-and-sell shop at Mcdonald's in Pasig City called Jewelry Box, said she has also noticed more women coming in to sell their "recently acquired pieces. If they're doing so for a quick buck, she can't tell for sure "because there are mostly rich women. They sell bags given to them as gifts. Maybe they don't like the style or the size is too small."

However, she admitted her clients walk away with the cash and hardly ever buy off her shelves, as some bag addicts are wont to do.

Pawned handbags typically get the same treatment as a gold necklace or, say, Dorothy, according to Pangilinan. The 30-day term, for instance, is renewable.

The client may get about 50 percent of the total assessed value of the purse. Say a "Class A" or IT-preowned Louis Vuitton Speedy 30 Monogram could fetch P5,000. She would resell a secondhand of the same condition at about P10,000.

Incredible? There's a queue in the store. Bags are the new heirloom

In a Makati pawnshop, an "old" Louis Vuitton Papillon 26 could be pawned for P5,000, depending on its condition, according to its staff. A slightly used piece could be valued from P8,000-P12,000.

However, Pangilinan said it's more favorable for her that clients sell outright, as pawning "takes a long time," urges very little in exchange for her business.

She said girls as young as 15 want to sell, as well as prize aged young women who are either gifted with fancy pocketses and to their liking, or heirlooms of five to six-figure hand-me-downs.

Hardly cash-strapped, you would think. But in these times, everyone seems in dire need of that extra roundah.

Enhance
FREE CONSULTATION!
Robinsons Mall

E.L.F Candy Shop lip gloss

HEALTHY glow bronzing powder

BRIGHTENING eye color

MINERAL makeup

Practical, pocket-friendly gift suggestions

It's the way to go this season

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisca-Prieto

BUSY OF MY friends are done with their Christmas shopping. I wish I were, too, but I've just finished buying gifts for the kids and forever on that what to give the adults.

The deal with my close friends is, we just ask each other what we really need. This leaves products we would normally buy but would also love to get as presents, more than any we don't have to shell out money. Being practical about things these days is something you shouldn't be ashamed of.

Here are some new products that would make for very practical, pocket-friendly gifts. If they don't seem like good presents for your friends, then buy them for yourself for personal pampering this season.

Makeup

When it comes to makeup, you may want to consider e.l.f. cosmetics. I just love the philosophy of this brand: "Beauty comes from feeling and being your best, an inner confidence that translates to the outer world as attractiveness." It also believes that every woman should be able to afford beauty essentials to enhance her beauty, with affordable makeup. Some products begin at P50!

We can fill a fancy kit full of e.l.f. products and dare give it to your mom, niece or best friend. Or you can give it to your Cinderella

in texture making your friends feel they're being pitied.

Those who've switched to mineral makeup would be glad to know e.l.f. has some, too. Mineral pearl when it comes to cosmetics is using all mineral-based products—those which are made of 100 percent natural minerals and contain no chemical additives, parabens and dyes. This type of makeup won't clog your pores and goes on very light on skin.

Hair color

A box of hair color would prove very useful to the gift giver. If you have a close one who's been after you like her a box of Phytocolor!

It's the leading specialist in botanical scrub and hair care, and now it offers hair color that uses a high concentration of natural botanical extracts in its formula.

The ingredient Fytheolorus-chamaeleon, found in exotic hair oil, can seal in which many people are allergic to, is not present in

PHYTOCOLOR

PANTENE

SHOWERING facial whip

Phytocolor. And since the brand has five shades, you may want to get one for yourself, too, and use it as a base for the highlights you get at the salon.

Hair care

I received a box of Pantene's three-minute miracle treatment recently and I was delighted at the results. It worked well on my hair and made my limp mane luscious. I've found this 60-second treatment is more effective after using Pantene shampoo and conditioner.

I'll be grabbing some more to find out how my hair should really feel given the deluxe treatment.

Yes, being practical by giving practical gifts this Christmas is the way to go!

What gift would you want to receive?

Email me at rfranco@inquirer.com.ph.

Find the hairstyle that suits your face shape

Is your face oval, square, rectangle, inverted triangle or a circle?

WE'VE ALL HAD THAT-ing haircuts one time or another. We wonder why the new hairstyle doesn't look good on us

Kelly Hill, Bride of the week

even if it looks exactly like the celebrity hair peg we wanted. Most of the time, it boils down to one thing: The hairstyle you didn't suit our face shape.

A great haircut can make such a difference—it flatters our features, making us look and feel beautiful. It can give us a dose of new confidence and a positive outlook to life. (If this hasn't happened to you, maybe you still haven't found the right haircut.)

Knowing your face shape is the key to getting the right haircut. If you don't know what it is, tie your hair back and closely examine your face. It may not necessarily look exactly like a single shape, but overall it should resemble one of the following: oval, square, rectangle, inverted triangle or a circle.

Hair expert Philippe Seyssen offers a guide.

Oval

You have an oval face if the width of your face is half of its length and your jaw is narrower than your cheekbones.

"The oval face is the easiest to work with because your hairstyle suits it. You can do pretty much anything with it and it would still look good," says Seyssen.

Any shape or style can be worn with an oval face. Long, short, medium to long, with layers or with bangs. The styles to avoid are the ones that cover up the face shape, making it look like a square. Also, avoid the center. Otherwise, feel free to experiment with different hairstyles.

Celebrity to follow: Julia Roberts

JULIA for oval

Square

You have a square face if you have a strong forehead and an angular jaw. The main goal is to soften the strong jaw line with some layers or side-swept bangs.

Soft curls help break the defined angles of your face, especially with long hairstyles.

Haircuts to stay away from are heavy straight bangs, with minimal layers or any geometric blunt cuts.

Celebrity to follow: Demi Moore

DEMI for square

Rectangle

Your face shape is rectangle if you have a strong forehead and jaw, but your face is long and narrow in size. Hairstyles to suit this face are the ones that can shorten the length of the face while softening it. Adding some bangs whether long and side-swept or cut just above the eyebrows, can look good on this face.

Again, soft waves soften the strong jawline. Avoid extremely long or short hairstyles that can add length to the face.

Celebrity to follow: Sarah Jessica Parker

Inverted triangle

While at the forehead, with high cheekbones and a narrow chin.

"A look that is longer in front only looks dated because it frames the jawline. It will give it a round-ness that will soften the triangle shape," says Seyssen.

This face shape can also benefit from a soft fringe that softens the forehead and eyes area. Avoid that makes the face look softer.

Keep away from styles with height on the top and middle parts that emphasize the forehead.

Celebrities to follow: Victoria Beckham, Reese Witherspoon

Round

Your face has a rounded chin, a wide hairline and cheeks that are just as full as your cheekbones.

"The round face can easily

JESSICA for triangle

ROSES for round

wear up cheek, because the tendency is to look rounder. The length should be kept somewhere around the collarbone, because if it is too long the tendency is to look heavy," says Seyssen.

Layered to avoid are chunky short bangs, ends cut to the cheeks and bobs, which all make the face look rounder.

Celebrity to follow: Renée Zellweger

Aside from finding hairstyles to suit your face shape, other things must be put into consideration.

"The length of the nose, the size of the ears, the size of the forehead, the shape of the head and the lifestyle of a person must also be deciding factors in choosing the right hairstyle," says Seyssen.

Philippe's Salon is at 2295 Antonio Building 3, Roxas Triangle, Makati City. tel. Nos. 810-9308 / 840-8850.

Must-visit haven for the holidays

By Irene C. Perez

BEFORE THE CHEERY man nods—and gestures—take a call on your skin, prep up and prettify.

Especially now that French cosmetics brand Lancôme has recently launched its Rejuvenating Spa in Greenbelt 3. Used to be found in department store counters, Lancôme now has a "mother ship" that guarantees individualized service and VIP treatment.

"It's the third in Asia, after Shanghai and Hongkong," says Ilse Lacaba, group product manager. "We have trained beauty advisers and therapists for skincare advice and pampering."

Customized facials

Apart from your beauty and fragrance faves, Lancôme GBS nine-action facial treatments.

To know which one suits you best, your skin will be evaluated using the Dispatic Expert—a machine with two cameras and three high-performance sensors that measure stillness, hydration, firmness and presence of lines and wrinkles.

The customized hour-long treatment is done in a facial cubicle with muted lighting and relaxing music.

Rénergie Purity Treatment is for normal skin deeply cleans and balances oily. Pure Blend products and Lancôme masks. It consists of makeup removal, exfoliation, steam bath and purifying creams that work to oxygen the skin.

The Rehydrating Replenishing Treatment addresses dry skin with the Hydracare line. It moisturizes parched and dull skin, while a "fusion" face

JUICY Tubes in tone of Stage shade

massage soothes and recovers elasticity.

Patrons junkies and those with dark spots should try the Whitening Treatment, which uses a special whitening serum from the Blanc Expert line.

Look younger with Wrinkle Resistance Tonifying and Firming, and Deep Replenishing Facials. All treatments involve makeup removal, steam cleaning and massage using products from the Primacinille, Absolue, Plénitude or Rénergie range which is inspired by a plant-energy technique that tightens and smoothens very instructive skin.

For extra pampering, there's the Youth Elixir Treatment infused with Bouleau de Vie—said to drain and detoxify using Suisse technology, and Eye Contour Treatment, which prevents puffiness and diminishes dark circles for brighter, younger-looking eyes.

If you're tagging a special guy along, let him try the Powerful Man Age Treatment that cleanses and refreshes with items from Lancôme Men.

Holiday party look

Allow zeal and dominance the holiday look, says Zoëlise Chan, Lancôme marketing operations manager.

"It's silver for the eyes and red for the lips. Cheeks are kept natural with sparkly loose powder. Another option is navy blue eyeshadow."

She recommends the sexy Cool Magnétique Holiday Collection with Gunbrownie red and deep-blue hues. The line illuminates the skin, magnifies the eyes and plumps up the lips.

Dust the apples of the cheeks,

COLOR Design Eyeshadow Quad from C'est Magnifique Holiday Collection

LANCÔME'S flagship store in Greenbelt 3, Makati, offers facials aside from your i-day faves.

decolletage and shoulders with Diva Magic Powder for added oomph.

For the makeup-ship, a brush of silver eyeshadows and glam-gloss for the lips will do, Chan says.

Newbie must-haves

For makeup newbies who need a new look for the holidays, Lacaba lists five must-haves:

- Light and airy foundation like the Maquiwhite UV Infinite Translucence Optical on your jawline and remember that the two-shade lighter rule is a big no-no.
- Blush for a rosy glow.
- Lipstick or gloss like Juicy Tubes (One is sold somewhere in the world every two seconds.)
- Eyeliner like Crayon Khol for definition.
- Mascara for bigger eyes. Try the long-wearing, smudge-proof Virtuose Black Cat-it mascara.

Lancôme CBS also has a Makeup Artist that is multisensory. Skincare tests for specific needs, and Hypnôse Stylo and Bar that houses favorite senses, the latest being Mapifique with Bollywood's Aamir Hathaway as image model.

All products sold here are formulated for Asian skin, so you don't have any excuse not to look like a Christmas vixen this holiday season.

Lancôme flagship store is at G/F Greenbelt 3. Call 7290594 or 7290593.

Beat water-retention weight gain and bulging

SO MANY THINGS CAN GO WRONG beauty-wise when one attends a wedding overseas.

Two days before leaving for San Francisco to attend a kin's wedding, my oldish Dermis Lumbar grown was already smug because of a worsening PMS, which meant an extra pound or two would cause my lower abdominal to puff up and my thighs to swell. Zipping the gown up by the hip area would be impossible.

Arriving 36 hours before the big event, my husband and I found our shoes and waist bands tighter than usual as a result of our bodies' water retention. Even the long plane ride and the need to adjust to the temperature change.

Luckily for us both I had the quick fix products for emergency inch loss.

Note: The products below work best to check weight gain caused by water retention. They also help those who want to lose a couple of inches in certain areas. They will not work for those who are trying to squeeze themselves into a smaller dress size to start with. Be realistic!

For men

Try the Rhonda's Men Body Cruiser Abdomen Toning Gel. It is applied only three times for two nights and one morning. After use, the man's pants zip up with no effort and with room to spare.

It works best when massaged on the stomach and love handles after day- and nighttime showers.

Downside: It was very cold and the bird that came from within to an amount of covering up would warm up that area till after five minutes.

It did not help that it was 50° F on wedding day. After eating the buffet and drinking from the open bar, the stomach puffed right back.

Perhaps it would need about a week of twice-a-day use for the stomach to stay flatter longer.

MAKEOVER 911

KIMEE SAMIA

PMS girl's routine

Estimating my cycle to hit right smack after the day of the New 8 wedding, which meant major water weight gain, I started the routine in Manila.

I started every meal with fruit and ate high-fiber cereal for breakfast.

I also began a more-a-day routine late October applying Ellana's Perfect Slim laser gel treatment on the hips, buttocks and thighs.

Afterwards starting from the ankles going upwards, I applied Aeon Cellmorphe anti-cellulite Body Sculpting treatment, including on the areas covered by Perfect Slim but giving special attention to the stomach, arms and the area which needs outside help to apply on—the bralise.

Here: Ellana's PSL is meant to be used like a serum so it needs something on top to seal it in. You can use a firming or any anti-cellulite lotion on top.

For non-PMS women

You can put on Clarins Total Body Lift, especially for stubborn cellulite control.

Apply starting from the ankles to the waistline as if you are pairing on support panty hose.

During the wedding, some of the women had the brilliant idea of starting on the feet to make sure their feet would not swell as the shoes around fit comfortably.

Note: Clarins TBL is perfect for women who have PMS as well, but to make it work faster, they may want to consider applying Clarins Anti Eau Oil after the evening shower.

If you do not want to wake up in the night to use the bathroom frequently, apply the Anti Eau Oil after the morning shower. The oil not only gets rid of excess fluids and toxins but also seals in moisture, making the skin soft.

Results from both were: Curves were easier to flatten and gowns did not zipped up with an unsightly bulges and seem to spare. Shoe fit ranged from comfortable to very loose.

Those treatments should be used twice a week for two weeks straight to yield best results. My runs were significantly shorter but results did not disappoint.

E-mail the author at dietrypradas@yahoo.com

CLARINS Body Treatment Oils x Invisible-

CONTROL cellulite with Clarins Total Body Lift.

JURLIQUE opens in Manila with two flagship stores—at GE Greenbelt 5 Phase 2, Makati and 2/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati.

Beauty with a conscience

JURLIQUE, A BEAUTY BRAND FROM Australia is now open in Manila. It's an alternative beauty brand that believes beauty comes from beauty.

At present the leading green luxury brand in Australia, the skincare brand comes in four variants to take care of different skin types.

Its facial line consists of toners, sun-protecting moisturizers, eye-cream, facial wash. The bestseller is the rejuvenating spray.

Jurliquet is a biodynamic line from South Australia, which means everything is hand-sown, hand-grown and hand-harvested.

Part of the proceeds from sales of Jurliquet products from November 19 to 30, 2008 will be given to charity—the Children's Environmental Awareness and Action Foundation, which supports teaching the youth about environmental awareness.

Rehidrance Orynasal line

Mas ligtas na sa sakit si Mai-Mai
at ang maramí pang batang katulad niya.

Maynilad

THREE winners of the Divines World Style Contest 2008: 3rd runner-up Josephine Luviano of David's Salon SM Bacoor, grand winner Anthony Ertano of David's Salon Eastwood and 1st runner-up Ravi Sanovar of David's Salon SM Bicutan

WINNING hairstyle from Anthony Ertano of David's Salon Eastwood

Top hair designers in competition

THE DIVINES WORLD STYLE CONTEST 2008 (WSCSE) was an evening full of spectacular hairstyles by skilled and talented hair stylists. Twelve Filipino finalists stood out and were given the chance to showcase their creations that interpreted the Divines Lifestyle.

Contestants displayed three hairstyle interpretations of the Divines woman—authentic, feminine, ageless, glamorous, progressive, beautiful, expressive and dynamic.

Chosen as the top three designers were second runner-up Josephine Luviano from David's Salon Bacoor, first runner-up Ravi Sanovar of David's Salon SM Bicutan and grand winner Anthony Ertano of David's Salon Eastwood.

Aside from receiving PHP200,000 plus P5,000 pesos worth of Divines products for his winning salon, Anthony Ertano will represent the Philippines in the Asian semi-finals promoted by Divines International.

If he wins in the regional till, he gains a coveted spot in the grand finals in Venice, Rome, alongside famed international hair designers.

The event, hosted by Marc Nelson, kicked off with the presentation of the World Style Contest 2007 grand winner Lionel Ramos, which featured stylized locks and tasteful hair sculptures.

The top 12 finalists then took the stage to demonstrate exceptional skills in cutting, styling and coloring. Participating salons included Salon de Orvet, Asia Udom Salon, Pasadigan Salon, various branches of David's Salon, Accessorie Salon, Salon de Ayala and Pilili Salon.

The hairstylists' creations ranged from boho with trendy bangs to layered and waved hair designs, all era and done live on stage.

How colors and hair style trends were also featured as Davines presented its latest product range, the Mineral Collection, interpreted by creative teams from Manila's elite salons—Basement Salon, Emphasis Salon, Chevelure formerly known as Salon de Ritz, Salon de Manila and Henri Calayag Salon.

Judging the technical aspects of the competition were hair experts Henri Calayag, Hollie Wilczynski, Kristi Tate and Victor Ortega, while model and Project Runway Philippines judge Applea Aberin Sudhwani, Globe Ambassador VP for International Sales and Marketing Ulf-Eric Lee and General Manager of Australasia at Davines Spa and Management Consultant Sergio Cavazzana critiqued the designs' overall wearability.

The World Style Contest is hosted by World Wide Hair Tour, the global annual hairstyling competition by Davines.

PIOLO Pascual

How to date Piolo or Dingdong

PIOLO PASCUAL NOTE Dream Date effort women a once-in-a-lifetime chance to have a date with the most-sought-after men in the country: Piolo Pascual and Dingdong Dantes.

Two single and attractive women between the ages of 18 and 35, with good and healthy-looking pinkish white skin, are going to have the opportunity to be with these hunks on two separate dates.

Two winners will be selected, and these lucky ladies will each get a complete Dream Date arranged by Ponds with the luxuriously fun choice—Piolo or Dingdong—not to mention P100,000 each.

Here are some tips on how to sail through your dream date with Piolo, Dingdong or whoever may capture your heart.

Start with confidence. Choose an outfit that you feel most comfortable and beautiful in. Show off your natural beauty and let your inner self glow.

As the country's beautiful to confirm, pale white or tuguelo is our flushing, pinkish white skin, it is. Start using Ponds White Beauty Cream two weeks before the big day to get that radiant glow; then just highlight your features with light makeup right before your date.

Remember not to go overboard on the cosmetics and outfit. It connects that he or she gets to know the real, beautiful you.

Once you've exchanged hellos, get the conversation rolling by complimenting his or her style (or smile!). Pin each other as easy, work towards an evening of good conversation and lots of laughter with great topics that you think he or she can relate to. Who knows, you might just find something unique that both of you share—a sport, a hobby or a dream destination.

Just be mindful not to monopolize the conversation. Being a good listener and expressing true interest in the other is highly encouraged.

Kissing on the first date? There is no one correct answer to this dilemma. You just have to sense the possibility of it in your partner's mood. Just remember to keep Ponds White Beauty Compact Powder handy to keep your skin smooth, fresh and matte in case that face-to-face moment comes!

DINGDONG Dantes

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Shoes have replaced bags as 'It' item

Killer heels are today's design statement items

By Mel Cuerva
Contributor

IN THE ECONOMIC SLOWdown, the fashion industry seems to have a more ironic view of the state of the world: models parading in super-high heels, some so high, several of the models were seen tripping in them.

Blame it on sky-rocketing prices of handbags, or the proliferation of designer knock-offs, even perhaps what the Daily Mail calls "the Gwyneth effect." In this year's shoes are making a statement of their own.

When platform sandals reemerged a few years ago (thanks to another style icon, Kate Moss), it was such a big hit that it spawned every possible style and permutation, (Sarah Jessica Parker even platformed-ized to Dolce&Gigi's warrior women knee-high sandals.

Even Crocs sells an embellished pair for around P6,000.

And when sales of high heels surged after actress Gwyneth Paltrow was shown successfully shoes one pair of sky-high heels to another sans handbag—it was a clear indication that shoe-stopping footwear would steal the spotlight from the "it" bag.

MEGESSA Dizon and Daphne Paez

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ALL DESIGNS by Randy Ortiz. At right photo, toasting the magazine's 5th anniversary are Metro Men editor in chief Carlo Tadiar; ABS-CBN Publishing managing director Ernie Lopez, Jose Sarah Meier, and Metro Men awardees David Guerrero, Joey Concepcion (represented by Mr. Len Christian Concepcion) and Manny Pangilinan (represented by Butch Moly)

On men, street games and 'Kulasa'

WHERE THE GIRLS ARE, THERE the boys are, too, darlings. But it was the other way around when Metro Men magazine presented its Men of the Year at a bash marking the publication's 59th anniversary. Since the boys were there, the girls came in droves.

Venue was the Rockwell Tent, where our town's top menswear designers showed off their awesome 2009 Spring-Summer collections.

Getting the show on the roll was JM's top custom designer for men, Anthony Sonon, who displayed cool linen suits and cardigans, crossovers, all with graphic splashes of black. Vic Bartho showed the looser silhouettes. Edwin Ao's duds were mostly all-white, with some contrasting blacks. Ivarluski Asorin came up with men's designs to marvel jewel tones.

Joey Samson's duds are most mostly to cool navy blue. Louis Claparols showed boldly contrasting blacks and lines. Peñasco dwelled on the contrast between transparency and opacity.

The finale was definitely my favorite collection: Randy Ortiz made a smashing end to the show with his crisp, super-tailored suits in a mod silhouette, all in fantastic math summer-whites palette.

At the finale, the films of the 'fear portrait by photographer Steve Tirona was unveiled.

This year's years of substance are Manny Pangilinan, Joey Concepcion, David Guerrero, David Celdran, Quinnie Sonnenn, Dr. Esther Ocampo and Aga Muhlach.

Manny, head of First Pacific, PLDT, Smart and Metro Pacific, was cited for helping education and sports. Joey is head of SEM, one of the country's biggest corporations, and spearheads the popular Go Negosyo program.

David Guerrero co-founded BMPO Guerrero, which has won international ad awards. Celdran is a respected broadcast journalist noted in an encounter of ABC, the pioneering 24-hour MBO-CBN News Channel.

Ocampo is passionate about empowering inspiration to Filipinos. Doctor is matinee idol who has set up Kalusugan Inyong Dapat Isapuso Isan (KIDS), which promotes children's fitness. Aga supports the boating inspired. His bike Aga ang Pedro campaign with children gathers used toys for indigent children.

There was time to party, palengque, and party hard we did—with beer and wine—in Metro Men's brilliant editor in chief Carlo Tadiar circulated among the invitees, while being congratulated for a truly smashing and successful event, darlings.

Pinoy street games

This fantastic inspiration behind the super successful "Hermanos Play Suit" at Bonifacio High Street gave old-school street-game players the chance to play traditional Filipino games that made them champs in the past. The occasion also let them pass on their skills to the next generation.

As I dashed in kinda late-ish, the fun competition was on high gear, as participants were given a chance to pit their skills against the old warriors in bamboo poles, jolo, jumbers, (I must say I'm a winner to this game) epic, sungka, Chinese garter and tabad-lata. It was the first time the mama of the youngsters is to homebound to full games.

AWARDEE Quinnie Pascasio

METROMEN awardees David Celdran with host Sarah Meier

AWARDEES Aga Muhlach and Dindee Ocampo

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using YSL Pride Solution

DESIGNERS make their curtain call. Louis Claparols, Joey Samson, Peñasco, Ivarluski Asorin, Edwin Ao, Vic Bartho and Randy Ortiz

ALL DESIGNS by Timothy Mocorro

HAPPY Hermanitos. Hermanos veteran brand manager Glen Mendoza, brand manager Annabelle Leon and team members Angel and Ejaine

JANICE Villanueva and Anne Gonzalez

SANA Maskayan and Dike Martinez

Hermanos provided a great venue for the retro-street games to be played in style, giving the crowd a chance to relive memories of traditional "Filipino fun."

By the end of the fun, fun happening, the Hermanos Play Suit gave kids and the kids-at-heart the simple joys of Filipino life.

Tons of Hermanos premium items were given out at the Price Station.

Bazkrosses' tee-off

Those hoarder gals from St. Scholastica's College High School Batch '84 hosted the super fun 1st Bazkross Cup Golf Tournament at San Elena Golf and Country Club.

The tournament was just one of the events the batch has been organizing in preparation for its 25th anniversary homecoming in February 2009. The organizing committee is headed by class president Ana Emma Sindayen.

Opening the ceremonial tee-off were Tagaig Mayor Freddie Tinga, with his wife Kaye-Choie Tinga, and TV news personality Pia Hontiveros. Pagdilawanan, who were members of Batch '84.

The gang of '84 were all too visible such as dermatologist MJ Torres Saldavanan of Zen institute, singer Judith Basul, blogger Bontivoros, Carlos de la Cruz, Janine Navarro Ignacio, Corinne Frank Zaldua, Hanna Alejo, Dindo Balbero and Lita Lihano Cartagio, with Madame Griff's Barb Velasco Co, Cath Bravo's Ida Luna Cassilo, Dr. Pia Cabrera Cabayan, Melissa Bullingkamp Pitarresi, Rissa's Annie Palacios Tiaral and Victoria Suarez. Major sponsors were Smart Communications, Ford Global City Club Car, Asterisan Memorial Park, Zen Institute, Toyota Cars and G&W Architects.

New face of scent brand

Zen Zest, one of the fastest growing fragrance and bodycare brands in the country, launched big, young celebrity Maxine Bedegimez as its "face for the scents" line, for this personal fragrance line.

Zen Zest president and general manager Michelle Anson Immanuel Mariel during a "scent-filled" event at The Apo, a haven for wellness, dubbings, in Bonifacio Global City.

Maxine, who is seen on the popular teen-time show "Wansapanataxi" and three-hit talk show "Entertainment Live", will be the face of Zen Zest's new fall/heart-along line.

"Zen Zest is all about balancing between life and work, creating a balance between Zen, the delicate harmony of whatever is essential to an overall feeling of well-being, and Zest, a reassuring passion for life. And Maxine definitely represents this kind of lifestyle," Michelle Anson said excitedly.

We had a chance to try out Zen Zest's all-new fragrances, including its awesome new after-party scent collection, such as Cos, Inspiration, Martini, Daiquiri and Margarita. Really cool, dubbings.

Like most successful scents, the gig was organized by the ever reliable ION Plus Inc. headed by super achiever Madame Sonia, no less.

Check out Zen Zest, palengque, at 100 outlets in major malls all over the country. It is expected to several countries as well.

LISA Gonzaga and Gerie Taylor

BUSINESSMAN Sunday Fuentevra with Zen Zest lady Michelle Anson

ALMA Concepcion and Clara Villanueva

ALVIN Hontiveros and Joy Rojas

DR. LENNIE Bolivar, Dondo Garcia and Don Bolivar

DON TEST'S new endorser Muriel Rodriguez

DMP Concepcion, DM Supermalls' AVP for Business Development, and Carla Asensio, Singer

TEAM SPIRIT. Senior Piaslang team members Jane Jardeleza, Charlene Sapida, Gretchen Lowrel, Anika Punzalan, Arlene Pangs and Mika Cabayadan

HOTSHOT gals from St. Scholastica's College High School Batch '84. Dr. MJ Valderamas, Bea Medina, well-loved Kaye Choi Tinga, Judith Basul, Singgay Montiveros and Janine Ignacio

PIA Hontiveros Paglaliwanan (left) Mayor Freddie Tinga

RUNWAY CHOICE

Shoes have replaced bags as 'It' item

Front page E1

Here in Manila, several of designer Joey Ivanovic's clients reportedly placed orders for the black pareu sneaker-inspired platform shoe he had custom-made by Jacquie for his recent Fashion Week show.

For the Autumn-Winter 2008 and Spring-Summer 2009 collections, shoe designers have come up with imaginative and creative ways to combine colors, materials, and textures, from suede leather to canvas and mesh, festooned with beads, studs, buckles and jewels—the more unusual, the better.

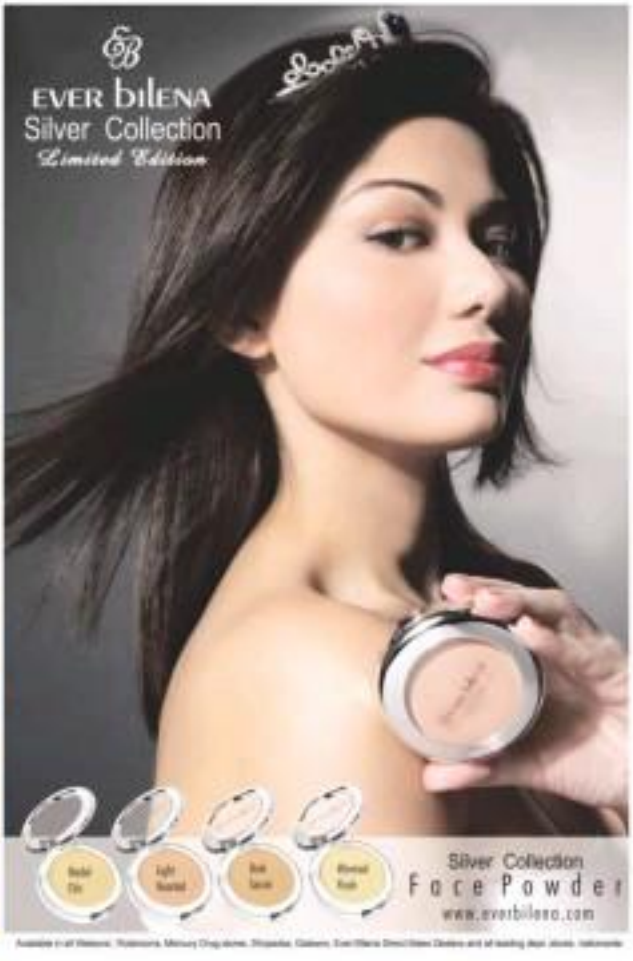
And we're not even talking about the heel itself. Designers such as Maison Proche, Giuseppe Zanotti, Rene Caovilla, and Jil Sander are literally taking designer heels to new heights with unusual heels, fantastic heels and reverse heels, taking them as a pillar for new architectural designs—a trend which not only damage your feet.

Dubbed as "love" or "lust" shoes (since you can't walk around in them that much), the alternative, as reported by Bill Cunningham in the New York Times, would be to carry your footwear in your oversize bag and slip them on when you get to your destination.

And while you can stand on your shoes to dress up your LBD (little black dress), it seems the trend for bags is quite the opposite. With the increasing trend for no-logo styles, bags are taking a back seat to shoes.

FAILA Rosales

ISPM Antipuesto



Fashion and living spaces of the future

SM RESIDENCES TRAINED THE SPOTLIGHT on the "Fashion of the Future," during the recent Philippine Fashion Week Spring Summer 2009.

Held at SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, in partnership with Mercury Productions, Fashion Week featured the designs of Angela Simon, Brian Lorca, Enrico Cavada, Gardenia Roberos, Jerome Lachica, Jhenik Tuazon, Norman Noriega, Patrick Calang, Pencil Llemos and Regine Dolap.

The new fashion was marked by boldness of experimentation. It was meant to address the style needs of the active and fashion-forward young urbanite.

The cosmopolitan fashion ensembled with SM Development Corp.'s SM Residences condominium projects, which cater to young urbanites. The projects include Mezza Residences, Chateau Elysee, Light Residences, Berkeley Residences, Field Residences and Sea Residences. All are conveniently located near SM Malls and other retail establishments. They are designed with first-class features and amenities.

SM Development Corp. is a fast-growing residential property developer focusing on the premium middle market, balancing key housing factors such as quality, style, durability, and affordability.

KEIKO Tuazon

KEIKO Dolap

MEGHAN Dolap

PING launches its custom fitting software

PING Golf, the pioneer in custom-fit golf equipment launches the nFLIGHT Custom Fitting Software. The nFLIGHT is a software system which can aid PING golfclubs fitters into properly fitting golfers of any skill level to come up with a golf set make-up more suited to their game's needs. It augments the current PING custom-fitting system which relies heavily on subjective visual fitting at the driving range. The nFLIGHT Custom Fitting Software is capable of recommending thousands of club combinations. It can show driver distance and dispersion of balls hit on the system's simulated fairway. It also includes in-depth analysis feature that analyzes data from three clubs hit during a fitting session (e.g. a hybrid, an iron and a wedge), to produce proper distance gaps between every club, thereby minimizing the redundancy of golf clubs. Ball speed, launch angle, and spin rate are captured by a launch monitor and sent directly to the nFLIGHT wherein turnsby, attitude, type of ball, and course conditions can be inputted. The numbers, so captured by the launch monitor, are re-inferred by 3-D graphics shown by the nFLIGHT which make it easier for the golfer to absorb during a fitting session. Moreover, the nFLIGHT also allows a head-to-head comparison between a golfer's current driver and the system's recommended PING driver.

At present, nFLIGHT fitting sessions can be accommodated at the PING Performance Center located on the 3rd floor of the Makati Golf Club, and soon at the CityGolf Driving Range in Pasig City and the SouthPoint Driving Range in Filinvest, Alabang. The PING Performance Center aims to highlight the benefits of PING custom club fitting. Properly-fitted golf clubs are indeed superior and will in the long term be more beneficial to the golfer over golf clubs that are purchased off-the-rack.

Aside from such, the PING Performance Center showcases the entire line of PING golf products, from irons, drivers, fairway woods, hybrids, wedges, putters, bags, and accessories. The PING Performance Center also provides retro-fitting. For inquiries, please call Simon Pegula at telephone 840-7084 or Louie Garcia at 840-9008.

Designs by 'Sex and the City' stylist now in Manila

MANILA SPENCER HAS SECURED an exclusive deal with Patricia Field, famed designer and stylist of "Sex and the City," "Ugly Betty" and "The Devil Wears Prada," to sell a one-off fashion range in its stores this November. This is the first time M&S has worked with a designer on a once-in-a-lifetime range.

In another first for the retailer, the glamorous range will be sold not only in M&S's UK stores and on its website, but also exclusively in its stores in a number of the international markets in which it operates.

Kate Bostock, M&S executive director of clothing, said, "For the first time ever, women all over the world will have a chance to own for themselves one or more of the sexy, glamorous and individual styles of Patricia Field. This year is the perfect time to showcase a range specially designed by the women who created such amazing looks in so many films and TV series."

Each piece within the collection reflects Field's individual signature styling combined with Marks & Spencer's high standards in quality, precision cutting and finish.

Fabrics include silks, georgettes, metallics and tweeds galore. Prints feature polka-dots, stars, stripes, animal prints and florals.

Highlights include a stunning floral print dress in champagne and black, with puff ball skirt; a sophisticated shift style dress in deep turquoise with wide flowing chiffon sleeves; and a black stretch satin corseted bustier/tank dress.

Field is a native New Yorker who began her career in fashion when she opened a boutique in Greenwich Village. She has won TV awards and earned an Academy Award nomination in 2006 for "The Devil Wears Prada." Her most influential work remains her costume design for the cult TV series and now movie, "Sex and the City."

The Patricia Field collection will be available in the Philippines on the third week of November, at Marks & Spencer Shangri-La Plaza Mall and Power Plant Mall.

FIELL Layer Dress

PATRICIA Field's Floral Puff Ball Dress

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty

CHECK OUT DIVISORIA

Plebeian shopping at its best

Beat the global recession by going 'Divi.' Even foreigners shop there

By Jake Ramirez
Contributor

IF ONLY NATIONAL hero Andres Bonifacio were around today he would have been proud of what has happened to his birthplace. It has been dubbed many ways—Tutuban, Divisoria, even Ilac de Divi (a play on Ilaw-ili Pinto)—but there is no denying that this old Manila district is a melting pot of shoppers.

Plebeian shopping at its best

From page F1

When used to be the final stop of the railway system of the last century, that ran all the way to Bicol is now a bustling shopping source.

Welcome to Divisoria, birthplace of Andres Bonifacio, the great plebeian, and of plebeian shopping—Tutuban.

Tutuban is the upscale version of Divisoria. For those who loathe the heat and the smell of street shopping, this is the place to be.

Composed of the Center Mall and the relocating Chester Mills A&R, the place is for those on a budget.

One finds outlet versions of popular brands Adidas and Levi's and a mix of low-end shopping malls.

I was lucky to buy a Stella McCartney for Adidas yoga mat at 50 percent off. I will check out the outlet for signed buy now and then.

Expect surprises during December. As early as October, night shopping on the outskirts starts at 7 p.m. and runs through midnight.

The back of Tutuban turns into the food havens/casualties at night.

At Pan Asia Chester Hotels, wedding dresses, bananas and other wedding essentials abound. If you do not mind getting married in simplicity, this is a one-stop shop. From tuxedos to boots, Tutuban has it.

For the fashion conscious, stores such as Posh Thai Marketing and Ilaya Dito have the latest streetwear, such as BAPE (Bathing Ape of Japan) clothing hooded jackets, stingray shirts, skinny jeans, canvas flage shoes and accessories.

Divisoria street shopping

Bitten once looking for a real bargain can explore Ilaya, Soler and Tabora for their Christmas shopping.

From boats to gifts, Divisoria and its outlying spots of interest is a wonderland. One can find fashion knockoffs starting at P50 for toys and P200 for sweaters.

Just be really careful. Divisoria still owes to Divisoria without the pickpockets. Even comfortably for the heat could be unbearable, considering the crowds.

Parking is a nightmare. Park at the Tutuban multi-level parking, then walk to Divisoria.

Isli Shopping Mall/Music Mall

When landlubber Maxine Jacinto launched her accessories line a few years back, she made sure that she visited Isli Shopping Mall, even if only for PR purposes. She claimed that she had counted most of the items here, thus making her line affordable.

I check out the place and see stalls selling used Swarovski crystals and home décor that's really expensive-looking yet easy-affordable.

Plastic wonders in floral dad colors sell for only around P100 a piece, wholesale.

That is why some friends make runs to Divisoria's Isli Shopping Mall in Park Mercury, especially to shop for their kids' birthday

ACROSS newspapers

KIDDIE sunglasses

PLASTIC wonders in floral dad colors sell for around P150 apiece.

souvenirs. The options are irresistible. Get this easily fill up a backpack of children's party giveaways.

A stone's throw away from Isli is Iliman Mall, a smaller shopping mall that sells similar items and electric supplies and power machines, perfect for gift-shopping by dads.

Right next door is the 168 Residences and Megaworld's City Have Condominium, capsule residential places for the Bonsai crowd.

STELLA McCartney for Adidas yoga mat

Binondo

Binondo and a food-it's your mind light up. Here, you can have Pranksters and Manners as an authentic setting, with the trademark Binondo style. Eng Bee Tin and Ho Land's hopia in various flavors are heavenly eaters.

But Binondo is also a wonderland for shoppers. Mixes and smiles are available by piece or in wholesale. You can even have them silk-screened for your personal designs. Ready to order and home, such as orange, apples and grapes line up the streets leading to Divisoria, perfect Christmas souvenir giveaways.

Be careful of merchants one wanted along the alleyways. Expect prices to rise before New Year, given the Filipinos' penchant to endure 12 kinds of traffic, especially round once, be good luck.

In the face of global recession for 2009, Filipinos remain optimistic and shopping-happy. Garcia's Christmas spirit that seems to be there all year round. That's also the "Diwa" spirit.

Coffee-table book on barong Filipino

EDEBANGKIT FILIPINO INC. in LAGNOB-ing a coffee table book called "Garment of Honor, Garment of Identity" on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at Mall of Asia, 2/L, Aseana.

Researched and written by Ms. Cristina Hills, MRE Perez and Aurea Reles, the book is a journey of discovery through the richness of Philippine cultures and the history behind the fabric that every Filipino regards as his emblem of courtesy.

Also a visual masterpiece by acclaimed photographer Neal Oshima, "Garment of Honor, Garment of Identity" showcases many of the key presidents and businessmen/ladies who bring the barong to light in all its different facets—starting from the Philippine act, whose main product has become a garment of defining moments in the lives of Filipinos.

The Barong Tagalog is the brand name of a pioneering ready-to-wear chain specializing in barong tagalog, whose factory in Quezon City turns out more than 100,000 barong tagalogs a year.

Founded in 1991 by Soledad Egido Hudson, the family-owned corporation has built its name on having RTW (ready-to-wear) from the finest materials, including piña, jusi, abaca, cotton, and blends of these natural fibers—all embroidered and sewn by experts to the nth. The product line offers a wide variety of styles, designs and colors, from traditional to trendy.

"Garment of Honor, Garment of Identity" is the fulfillment of Ms Hudson' lifelong obsession to add to the body of work on Philippine's an aspect of tradition that she knows best. A photo exhibit detailing the barong Filipino's life span from birth to fashion statement will also be on view during the book launch, and will be running throughout the regions to enable the 'grassed' public to learn more about our national dress.

"Garment of Honor, Garment of Identity" will be available at SM's department Filipinas and at selected bookstores nationwide. Call 7722792 to 7726863.

More picks of the week

BLOG: http://canitellyou.rafe.com/

TAKE A SNEAK PEEK INTO NEW YORK-based designer Rafe Totengco's fascinating world as he travels the globe for inspiration and bedazzles with equally stylish friends and colleagues.

Catch him in Barcelona, where he visited Gaudí's surreal structures and met with friend and author Michael Roulin, who penned "Bringing Home the Birkin." Or follow him around New York during Fashion Week, unraveling drama, people-watching and runway-king.

"Fashion accessories are always sold out-late deals ready to wear, so my work is done for the most part. So, I get a chance to take a breather and watch the action," says Rafe.

You'll also enjoy his entry about Harajuku and Mom, as he opens the day in Harajuku to view Hitoshi Murakami's exhibit. Or why not learn a thing or two about where to shop for fine sources and look savings in Sanrizuka in every fold?

Get on the an online adventure as you delve into Rafe's fashionable life.

ONLINE SHOPPING: http://www.apple.com/ph/

MAC FANS REJOICE! AT LONG LAST, there's an Apple online store in the Philippines where you can enjoy secure shopping and exclusive benefits available only to online customers.

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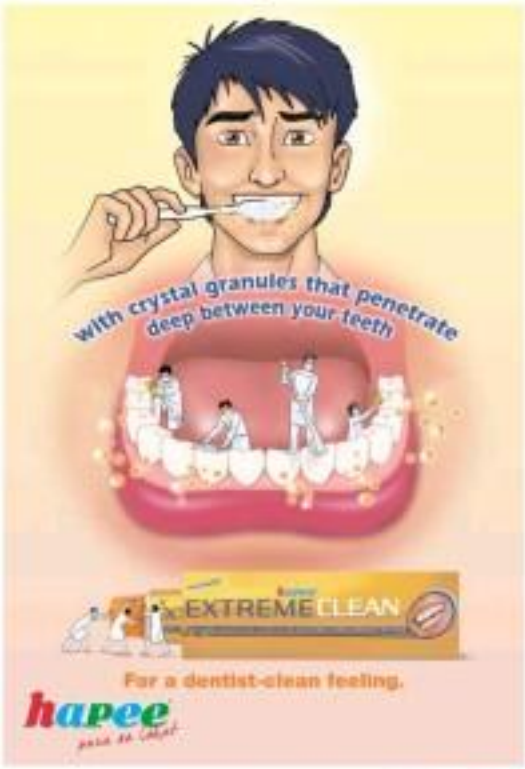
Other benefits include discounts for students and teachers, the chance to speak with Apple experts simply by calling 1800-1811-0525, and free shipping for orders over P5,000.

If you purchase a new Mac or iPod by Nov 24, you can also get an exclusive T-shirt for free—while supply lasts, of course.

THE OFFICIAL Apple online store is finally in the Philippines

RAINBOW-BRIGHT iPod Nanos

FREE personalized engraving and signature giftwrap for iPods



JB MUSIC JB SPORTS
3 Day
Liquidation Sale
All JB Music & JB Sports products from 35% - 70% discount.

THE BIG outlet SALE 2008
BIGGEST BRANDS. LOWEST PRICES!
NOV. 21 - 23 | The Mega Tent
30 Meralco Ave., Ortigas (beside Renaissance Condominium)

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UP TO 80% OFF
NOV. 21 - 23, 2008 The Mega Tent, 30 Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center Renaissance Condominium

Shades of James Bond

TOM FORD DRESSES UP DANIEL CRAIG in the James Bond 007 movie, "Quantum of Solace."

Ford worked with costume designer Louise Frogley to provide made-to-measure tailored clothing and casual wear, including evening wear, suits, shirts, knitwear, ties and accessories. This includes the exclusive eyewear Tom Ford TF 109.

According to Ford, there is no better man to dress to the world than James Bond, a global icon for 46 years now.

The Tom Ford TF 109 in 19V Matt Black/Silver is an Italian-made pair of sunglasses with lightweight acetate frames, round lenses, and extra tips covered in stitched leather material that bears a ray silver plate engraved with the Tom Ford name.

The finishing touches include the Tom Ford name applied in silver on the left lens, subtle details on the temples and tan-gray lenses.

The limited-edition James glasses have "James Bond 007" on the inside arm, complete with a shoulder garment-strap box with Tom Ford James Bond 007 on the front in silver capital letters, a matching sunglasses velvet bag case to protect the sunglasses and cleaning cloth.

These sunglasses come with a certificate of authenticity and guarantee.

Tom Ford Sunglasses are in premier optical stores in Metro Manila. Tom Ford is exclusively distributed by The Optoline, Inc.

'Georgette, The Musical' at College of St. Benilde

THE SCHOOL OF DESIGN & ARTS (SDA) of the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde has partnered with Singapore-based Music Theatre Limited and Sing Avenue Productions for the Philippine premiere of "Georgette, The Musical." It will be staged on Nov. 25-29 at the newly opened Museum of Contemporary Art & Design at SDA.

"Georgette" is based on the life of pioneer Singapore artist Georgette Chen and her journey from continent to continent, crossing cultures and cultures, in pursuit of her dream—"to become an artist." The production is a collaboration of Singaporean artistic and artistic directors, and Filipino technical directors and production managers and arts marketers. The SDA's main objective is providing learning and hands-on experience to students who will be involved in a multinational production.

GOINGS ON

Evelyn Mandac in concert tonight

Foreign-based Filipino classical soprano Evelyn Mandac and violinist lead the concert, "100 Years of World Class Music," at the LVF Theater tonight at 7:30.

The concert is part of the centennial celebration of the University of the Philippines. Directed by Behn Cervantes, the concert also features Camille Lopez, Molina, Melyn Lubalina, Frankie Alcantara, Dondi Ong, Ana Feliciano, Bimbo Dacs, Eloy Marquez, Leslie Dumalaille, Philippine Madrigal Singers, UP Concert Chorus and UP Singing Ambassadors. It is organized by the UP Alumni Association.

LIFESTYLE Fashion&Beauty
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Contributing Editors Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Jenni Epperson and Ria Francisco Prieto

Charms for the good life

In Manila, Tiffany & Co. has recently reopened its doors in Rustan's Makati

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THERE'S NOTHING quite like receiving a present that comes in Tiffany & Co.'s iconic blue box. Even before you set your eyes on what's inside, you already know you're getting something special because, well, someone thinks that you are special as well.

Immortalized in the 1961 movie "Breakfast at Tiffany's" where a pensive Audrey Hepburn spent her early mornings outside the flagship 5th Avenue store, Tiffany & Co. was founded by Charles Lewis Tiffany in 1837.

It began as retail stationery and fancy goods store in New York, eventually expanding to other homewares and flatware to jewelry. So a mention of the opulence of the Victorian era, the brand's design aesthetic was marked by simplicity, harmony and charm.

TIFFANY & Co. Blue Box charm

Today, Tiffany & Co. is best known for its luxurious gifts meant to celebrate and mark life's most important moments. The brand is also popular for its engagement ring style, the Tiffany Setting, a towering design that showcases the brilliance of a diamond by lifting it above the ring band with six platinum prongs.

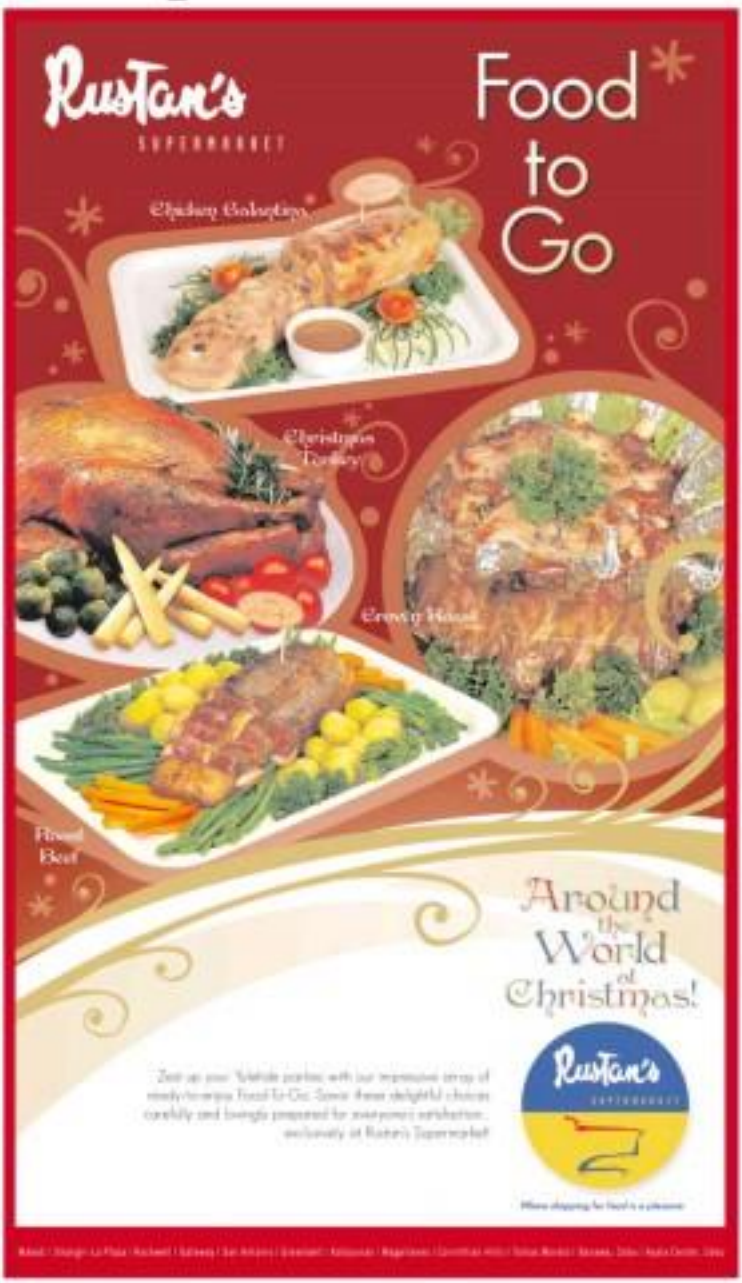
In Manila, Tiffany & Co. recently reopened its doors in Rustan's Makati with the unveiling of its latest collection themed by Tiffany.

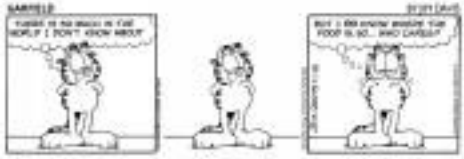
The collection is composed of sterling

LOADING 62

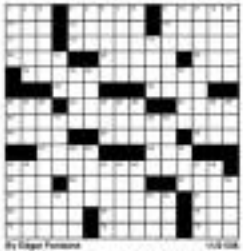
SELECTION of lock charms

ONE of Tiffany & Co.'s signature charms: Return to Tiffany heart lock charm





DAILY CROSSWORD



By Edgar Pacasio
Cagayan, RA

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

					5	7		
		8	2			1		
4	5			6			2	
7							8	
		1				3		
	8							7
	6			4			1	2
		4			1	8		
		7	3					

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	3	9	1	5	8	7	6	4
5	4	8	2	7	6	1	3	9
1	6	7	4	9	3	5	2	8
7	2	5	6	3	4	9	8	1
9	8	1	5	2	7	3	4	6
3	5	6	8	1	9	4	7	2
6	9	4	3	8	2	6	1	7
8	1	3	7	6	5	2	9	3
4	7	2	9	4	1	8	5	3

CHRISLDA Lorenzo

VIVIENNE Kashangura picks her charm.

NEWLY renovated Tiffany & Co. boutique in Ayala's Makati

Charms for the good life

BUSTAN'S co-owner director Irene Sotto welcomes guests to a trigger and dinner Tiffany & Co. boutique.

From page B-1

silver and gold jewelry loaded with charms that you can mix, match and collect.

The pretty charms can be worn in many different ways—as bag charms, attached to key rings or belts or hanging from fine Tiffany chains as chunkier chain-link bracelets.

They're perfect stocking stuffers, as the selection of charms include bold letters, numbers, hearts and famous icons including the Tiffany Blue Box, Atlas, 1837 and Return to Tiffany. Each little charm can mark a special occasion while you build a collection.

Next time you receive that Tiffany blue box, you can be certain something special awaits—a little something that's symbolic of your charmed life.

Email the author at ghokson @inquirer.com.ph

ANTON Huang, executive vice president of Rustan's Commercial Corp. and Rustan Specialties, Inc., entertains guests.

SIMPLE yet sleek Apple Charm

MINIATURE cupcake charm

HIP sub charm

Quick and Easy

Khristine R. Gabriel

Last Sunday, my 11-year old daughter was asking me about make up. She wanted to know how she and her friends could always look good and fresh without having to lug around so many items.

For a teen with so much going on, from tons of school work, to attending parties or simply hanging out with friends at the mall, I recommend using an all-in product that can cater to all the young ladies needs. It should also easily fit into a small pouch. I suggest using the Twenty Make up Set by Caroline. It comes in a compact that has four trendy eye shadows, 2 shades of blush on, and a lip gloss that is perfect for texture and is safe for sensitive skin. It also comes with an applicator, a cheek and lip brush for a quick and easy application – all that in one compact!

For a glamorized up look, the young ladies will surely love to use the Twenty Eye Shadow Set by Caroline. With six different shades to choose from, how can she go wrong? With all these colors, she can easily change her look from preppy to girl next door, to a rock star! All she has to do is sweep a few strokes across her eyelids and her eyes will instantly brighten up. The darker shades can also be used to lift out eyebrows and fine eyes. And to top it off, it's safe for delicate eyes!

So who says its going to be hard looking pretty and staying fresh all the time? With these new favorites, teens can touch up anytime, anywhere without having to worry about damaging their sensitive skin.

Email me at khristinegabriel@gmail.com

"At Zunic, a 3-centimeter loss around the waist in 45 minutes is not unique or exceptional --- it's the sort of result we deliver tens of times every day.

"We see it happen 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. I'd say we could do it for just about any one who needs it."

-Mel, Zunic Makati Head Nurse
31 October 2008

"When Zunic chose its equipment, we laid down three criteria," explains Zunic's Managing Director. "(1) The treatments had to be safe and non-invasive; (2) the results delivered had to be immediately measurable, felt, and seen; and 3) the various treatments had to complement each other, so that we could use specific techniques for different problem areas of the body.

"We succeeded! Quite simply, the equipment we use at Zunic today represents the latest practical advances in slimming and body-sculpting technology. Because we are relatively new, none of the equipment we use is more than two years old.

"Technology being the way this today, this represents a quantum leap over slimming methods pioneered as late as 1999. We are delivering world-class treatments using the hand and the latest cutting-edge tools. You might say that we're setting new standards in the industry. This is what makes it possible for Zunic clients to lose amounts of fat that are considered 'impossible' using traditional methods."

Our clients' testimonials speak for themselves!

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Consultations are free and are held in strictest confidence. We're open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Sunday!

"Being pauncky can be infuriating! I barely won bingo (BBF at chance of a pun) and couldn't erase the stubborn pork hanging in my tummy. Thank God I found your services on the web!"

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ORTIGAS
709-0800 or 709-0880
G/F MC Bungardy Empire Tower
ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center

Amazing lace

Jenni J. Epperson

From Prada to Freeway, the sexy garment rules this season

PRADA'S DECENT FALL 2008 show had a legion of models walking down a spiral runway in lace ensembles of black, browns, bronze, silver and pale blue.

Lace was certainly all the rage. Historic Prada was said to have spotted a piece of lace in her studio and after ignoring it for a while, she got a burst of inspiration and used it for practically an entire collection.

Now's that for a mood swing! A little dark, a little feminine and a whole lot of edge. I'd say that pretty much sums up the mood of **this season's love-lorn looks.**

Local label Freeway has also adopted the lace craze in its latest collection, modeled by icons Anne Curtis. Look for vampy lace dresses **in black, which are** uber-sexy, especially with the right accessories. To add some laugh-girl balance to the lacy duds, don some rounded studs, **geometrical accessories** and metallics.

Freeway describes its lacey ensembles as "punk chic"—very sultry and edgy, with dramas **playing with silhouettes** and textures. The chic comes in the silhouette and the punk in the details.

For a more sophisticated appeal, layer a tailored blazer over a satin bubble dress. And by all means, experiment with black tights with hemlines that go up the knee. Opaque tights are definitely a must-have for the holiday season!

Geometric prints are also **making a splash. Our sweetheart** for this look is skein pre-fall 2008 collection—a beautiful array of colors inspired by photographs of Icelandic landscapes, a graphic-art palette of **chics, crisps and neon blue.**

Freeway's every-season-gotta-statement this season is a tube satin dress with cut and color blockings.

Lastly, brrrr. The chunky-knit sweater is a good alternative to the traditional jacket. For a chic silhouette, try pairing lighter **colored knits with a long dress** clothed at the waist, plus opaque black tights.

Email the author at jjtalks@gmail.com.

ANNE Curtis in lace

COOL cut-outs

SATIN seduction

IT'S KNIT

LIVING Stars

Editor Bonnie G. Peñarda

HOME BODY

Lisa Macuja lives in a house steeped in the arts. /H4

Creative clutter

From page H4

in 1997, Imee also filled their home with mementos from their trips—like photographs in Disneyland and Sesame, souvenirs of the Colosseum, Eiffel Tower and Empire State Building. The mementos each holds a special meaning for the couple.

"When we visited New York," Martijn says, "I was pregnant with Mimy. Imee, when Mimy was a year old. Rome, we had both kids already."

BUDDHA heads to the heads of state places.

OPENS NOVEMBER 26

Muling tikman ang gabi ng kantilang harana at ng walang humpay na ligaya.
Gusto mo bang sumama?

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AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1
1 MONSTER SLAYER
2 JAMES BOND 007 QUANTUM OF SOLACE
3 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
4 ONE TRUE LOVE

GLORIETTA 4
1 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
2 JAMES BOND 007 QUANTUM OF SOLACE
3rf BURN AFTER READING
4 CONCERTO
5r PARENTHOOD
6 ONE TRUE LOVE
7 SEX DRIVE

GREENBELT 1
1 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 BURN AFTER READING

GREENBELT 2
1rf JAMES BOND 007 QUANTUM OF SOLACE
2rf BURN AFTER READING
3 SEX DRIVE
4 MONSTER SLAYER
5 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1rf BURN AFTER READING
2 ONE TRUE LOVE
3 JAMES BOND 007 QUANTUM OF SOLACE
4 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
5 SEX DRIVE

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 JAMES BOND 007 QUANTUM OF SOLACE
3 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
4 THE HOMER

MARKET! MARKET!
1 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 JAMES BOND 007 QUANTUM OF SOLACE
3 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
4 MONSTER SLAYER
5 BURN AFTER READING

TRINOMA
1 ONE TRUE LOVE
2 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
3 JAMES BOND 007 QUANTUM OF SOLACE
4 MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA
5 SEX DRIVE
6 MONSTER SLAYER
7f BURN AFTER READING

AT THE MALLS

Glorietta
MISSION APPLIANCE FAIR
November 27–December 2, Glorietta Activity Center

Greenbelt
MICHAEL JOHNS LIVE
November 21, Greenbelt 3 Park

Alabang Town Center
SO DIGIKO SO: The Ignorra Sing Along
November 21 · 22 | 11am, 2pm & 4pm, Activity Center

Ayala Center Cebu
SPY INSTALLMENT MADNESS
November 16 to 30, Rotunda Areas & Activity Center

Market! Market!
SARBULANI WORLD NATION
November 21, Activity Center

Christkita
Regalitos Philippines presents A CHRISTMAS CAROL: The Musical
For details, call 5877 0 or log on to www.regalitosphilippines.com

Ayala Museum
Opening until 31 December 2008 at Museum Floor
For details, call 8816 0 or 757 7117 or e-mail info@ayalamuseum.org

Trinoma
MISSION APPLIANCE FAIR
November 19–Dec 1, Activity Center
TRINOMA TECHNO CLASSICS
November 20, 27, 11am, 4th level Trillions/Park

Love To Watch twilight

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- Genevieve Gift Certificates
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SOUVENIRS from trips to Rome, Paris and New York

MTRCB PG-13

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True love may come more than once in a lifetime...

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THEATRE

SHANG CINEPLEX

1) QUANTUM OF SOLACE PG-13 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00

2) MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA GP 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00

3) BURN AFTER READING R-13 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40

4) ONE TRUE LOVE PG-13 1:40, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

MADAGASCAR GP 2:15, 4:30

QUANTUM OF SOLACE R-13 6:50, 9:10

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A TRAGIC PLANE CRASH 200 Casualties, 5 Survivors... Only one will survive

ANNE HATHAWAY

PASSENGERS

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JOHN TRAVOLTA MILEY CYRUS

BOLT

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QUANTUM OF SOLACE

NOW SHOWING

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He's leaving virgin territory.

SEX DRIVE

JOSH ZUCKERMAN AMANDA CREW ALICE GREGOVA KATRINA BOWDEN JAMES MARSDEN

NOW SHOWING

MONSTERS WHO RULE THE WORLD

MONSTER SLAYER

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

THEATRE MALL

PROMENADE

1 ONE TRUE LOVE 2 SEX DRIVE

3 MADAGASCAR 2 4 QUANTUM OF SOLACE 5 BURN AFTER READING

DIVAS DIVAS

Creative clutter

'Marriage of the arts' best describes the Elizalde home

By Rayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Rusty Hendalia

BILLBOARD AND SARDI shows host Lita Marquis-Elizalde describes the Pasay City home she shares with husband Fred and kids Missy and Mikael: "It has a very kind of clutter."

It seems "creative clutter" is the main design principle, yes, to borrow the title of the Elizalde's television book, the house sure can be described as "A Marriage of the Arts."

To say it boasts a floor-to-ceiling, walls-to-wall showcase of paintings is an exaggeration alongside photographs from Marquis-Sadler careers are allgenre done by Elizalde—most of them inspired by his wife, his muse.

His personal favorite is "Birthmal." It's also the title of a ballet they did in 2000," she recounts. Her favorite is another version, a nude "Portrait," this one being the viewer. "It captured my eye perfectly," she notes.

Other paintings were inspired by her performances, like "Carmen" and "Red Gown Ball."

"He's brought both all of his paintings that were sold in his last exhibit in 1999!" Marquis says. "He can't really bear to part with them."

In the main house, the only paintings not by Elizalde are by Fernando Amorsolo and Dino Manzano. One is by an unknown French painter.

Displayed with the prized art works are previous drawings by Missy, 16, and Mikael, 8.

Elizalde's newest shot for it yet-Ed to-be-hot act—Chao Shi 14th-century unusual canvas from Japan and the extensive collection of Buddha figures from all over the region.

Unique sculptures of Shiva, Vishnu and the sitting Buddhas date back to the 4th, 8th and 10th centuries.

"Fred acquired these antiques before they were protected by the Unesco," Marquis asserts in her usual playful tone. "He started collecting in the 60s and 70s."

Standing on a two-hectare property, the house itself is an eclectic figure. "This was originally the second home of Fred's mom, of the Cuadernillo family," she relates. "It was buried down during World War II."

Rumors is talk that ghosts of Japanese soldiers better in the guest's quarters, which they dubbed Buddha's Room, and which was built in 2004.

Making Buddha residents from Russia usually stay in the Buddha House, but it also serves as storage space for Elizalde's paintings and books.

Here the guest house is the pool. "We expanded it a lot when our kids were born," Marquis recalls. "Fred was a competitive swimmer. He was in the 1968 Rome Olympics."

The porch was enclosed to glass only in 1999, and turned into an air-conditioned painting area for Elizalde. "He likes strong to these and watching me rehearse," she says.

Marquis spends at least four hours a day, six days a week at the Ballet Manila dance studio, a station three away from the main house.

These days, she divides her time between her child radio show "Act 2 Act" and the next Ballet Manila production, "Talking Moments in Lola Basyang" (The Elizalde clan owns the Manila Broadcasting Company, which runs dzRH.)

"Lola Basyang' is our most extravagant and ambitious project yet," Marquis says. It will run on the first two weekends of December, with possible extensions, at the Aliw Theater.

Marquis is proud of her one-year-old radio program which was given a special mention by the Catholic Mass Media Awards recently. "We're the youngest show to be honored," she says.

The Elizalde, who got married [illegible]

THE HOUSE is a naked map in a rare green spot in Pasay City.

"MOLDING Man" by Fred Elizalde

SOUL OF Fred Elizalde's paintings

SAMURAI armor dates back to the 15th century

GUEST bedroom's colour has been dubbed as Buddha Room.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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About the billing ...

OVERHEARD

REVIEW

Tough act to follow

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE BIGGEST CONCERT OF THE YEAR kept thousands on their toes, but happily.

The no-sure affair that was the Rihanna and Chris Brown back-to-back gig Sunday night at the Bonifacio Global City open field in Taguig was one huge dance party that lasted almost three hours—unreasonable for the midnights so much as the onstage action.

The night of many adolescent rules: come with friends or with their parents was nothing really new, since today's tweener crowd has grown younger and can already appreciate such local bands as My Chemical Romance. But on Sunday, their number was larger than life; it seemed like pop music had become a new religion.

In this case, object of admiration was R&B, the kind that bounces with street-wise cruise, and a dash of hip hop for a more compelling effect.

Brown, predestined as "the bad twin Michael Jackson" by Rolling Stone magazine, sure is specially in his straw dangling from a rope, looking fearsome, like a movie pantomimer in a ski mask. His first three numbers were both gritty and smooth—the rough-edge boosted by vigorous dancing, and a gentler side recalling the cool vocals of Usher (another so-called heir to Jackson's legacy).

After some dancing and an invitation to join the fun ("Let's have a party!"), a barely sweating Brown invited volunteers onstage. As the overwhelmed guests jumped up and down with him, it was hard to tell whether or not they were cheerleaders/cohorts the D.J...who provided much of the music with a drum-beat—threw out the mic. He started "Smells Like Teen Spirit." Points there, Brown's set took on an anything-goes approach.

Adding fuel to the Jackson successor hype, he concluded with an MJ tribute of sorts, doing the bloomsuit and singing along to "Rock With You." He was much more effective when he sang his current hit, "With You."

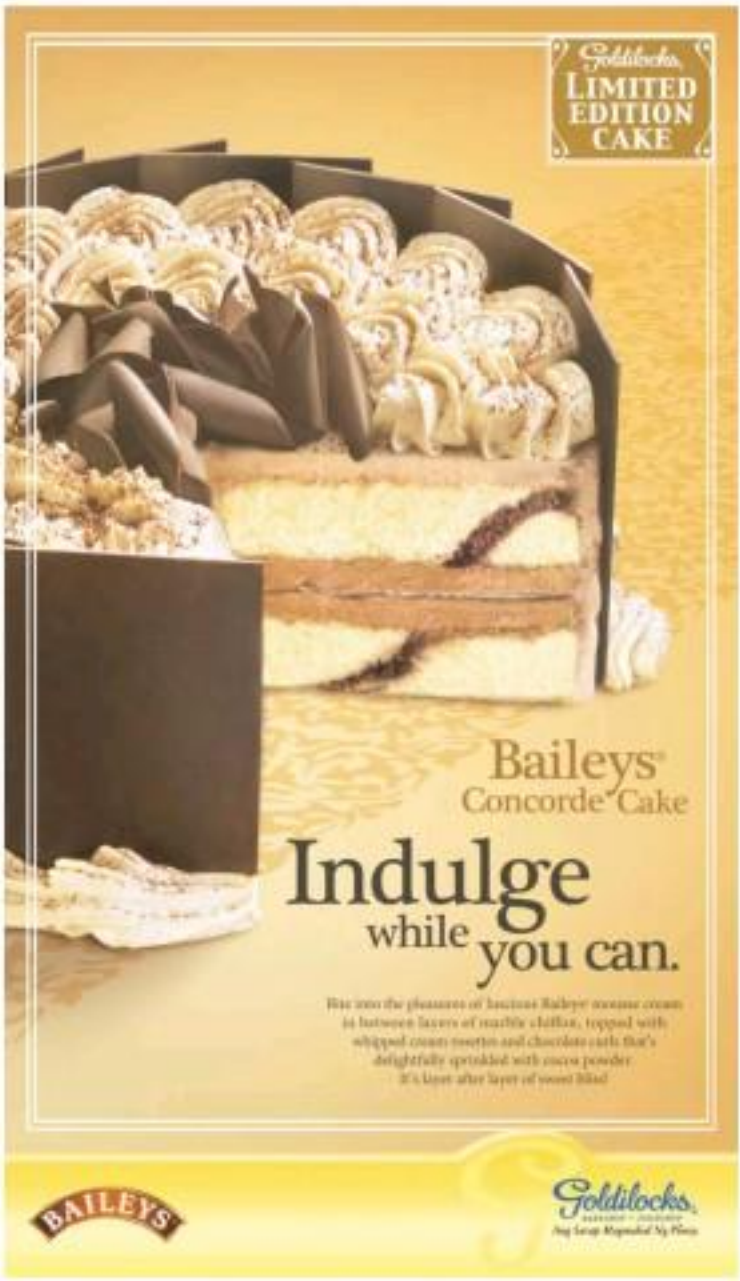
And even with a good DJ, the absence of a live band somewhat diminished the power of a louder artist like Brown to fully captivate the crowd. Which sets what Rihanna certainly accomplished.

Audaciously sexy

Backed by a flashy set of musicians, the 20-year-old superstar zoomed along a repertoire that saw to mean willpower of a persona that pointed her into a Madonna of sorts.

In a skimpy outfit, Rihanna projected audacious sexuality, striking provocative poses and prancing in high heeled shoes while performing dance-based moves enhanced by live, bombastic rhythms. When the atmosphere turned intense with "You'll Stop the Music," Rihanna had the audience in the palm of her hand. "Philippines! Filipino!" she chanted—adapting lines from the Black Eyed Peas' "Bebot."

Reportedly 60,000 people watched this concert. That's a huge number to top for dyad Pinoy fans. A hurray due here to Rihanh.



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8. Untitled Love - CONCERTO
9. MALANG RAMBLA
10. PASSENGERS

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Fixing a broken heart

From page 14

How are you and Doug now?

When I said I didn't love him anymore — I meant the romantic kind of love. But I still care about his welfare and I pray for him.

Can you still be friends?

Maybe in time.

What will happen to your business?

Our shares [in the Cavitenge eyebrow joint and Moy Lin restaurant] are separate. The businesses are doing well.

There's a rumor that Marina Rivera [who's being linked to Dingdong] approached you and you batted away.

That's not true. We had an exchange of words pa rin. My sentiment was: I don't talk like that.

How have you changed in the last month?

I feel stronger as a person. I've also become more open to outside help.

Your names [Sharon Pauldin] is in the United Status. Does she know what happened?

Yes, we're in touch.

What's the best piece of advice from your mom regarding the breakup?

She said I should focus on love that's constant — family, friends. Just having her on the phone was more than enough. She didn't have to say much. All she had to do was listen. Raquel Sun Diego Jr.

'I love myself more now'

Her breakup with Jericho Rosales in June was also highly publicized. Now, Heart Evangelista told Inquirer during the launch of her new fragrance whatever, "Luma Mystica," she's "happy for the first time in a long while."

She said this was because of Francisco "Kiko" Delgado, 34, exec of a shipping family, whom Heart, 23, has been dating for five months now.

The couple was spotted swimming on Boracay Island during the Halloween break. Their photos were posted on everybody's pages.

"He's very low-key. That's what I like about him," said Heart. "He's hardworking and is focused on his goals. We're alike in that sense."

When she announced the end of her three-year relationship with Kiko, Heart hinted at a "third party." Jericho denied cheating on her.

"Things are going well in my life right now," Heart said. "I never thought I could bounce back. I gave up everything for my previous relationship. I will not commit the same mistake again. I've learned to love myself more."

Pa her 1st Repase project, she played leading lady to Richard Gutierrez on the action-adventure series "Codename: Asero."

"Luna Mystica" is her first lead role for the network. It airs weekdays, right after "Zsa Zsa." Marinel R. Cruz

Miley...

From page 9

tight jeans and that washes [laughter]. That's how my dad was promoted. People try to do the same thing, to me but I want to be known more for my acting and singing."

Of her TV series, which has been turned into a movie that will be released in April and spun off to equally successful live concerts, Miley was optimistic. "The future of Hannah Montana is bright," she declared, explaining that she is taping Season 3 episodes. "As I grow up, the characters has to grow up, too. It's just something that we need to do to keep things interesting. I would like to be like Madonna who keeps reinventing herself. That's something I feel I could do with my character."

Not that confident

Despite her aura of confidence and the ease with which she parried the reporters' questions, Miley confessed she is not that confident. "I am still a kid. It's hard for me to explain to other girls because they don't have someone who puts them together every day. I wake up and I'm air-brushed, put into clothes but of course, it's my style. When I'm at home, I put on my sweat pants and put my hair in a bun. I never really look that great. I don't feel that wonderful and confident."

What if she doesn't like any of the dresses that her styling team presents to her? "I don't wear it," she answered. "They give me 12-15 dresses options for one night. I use those and if there's nothing I like, I get something else."

Miley, who has been linked to Nick Jonas of the Jonas Brothers band and lately to model and singer Justin Gaston, claimed the ring on her finger was "a pretty ring. I believe in it."

Next freak

On the home front, Miley replied when asked to describe her mom: "My mom is a neat freak. She was a designer so the likes everything perfect in the house. Except in my room. My mom has everything all stacked up, with candles everywhere. I feel like the sweeter it is, the better I find things."

Our binary Cinderella princess is also bookish, it turns out. On what item she likes to shop for the most, Miley readily answered, "Shoes. I like shoes a lot. My favorite are those Tory Burch boots that I have on. But my favorite shoes to buy are Converse shoes. I have probably every color of Converse shoes known to man."

Learning experience

When a journalist brought up the issue on her provocative Vanity Fair photos, Miley announced, "It's over that. It was just another part of growing up. I think it was a good learning experience."

What advice would she give to her younger fans? "Remember what things make you special and embrace those because those are so many things that aren't on the console that are so important and people find so annoying."

Email the columnist at rmpadez_1500@yahoo.com and read his blog "The Hipster Report" at http://blogs.inquirer.net/hipsterport.

TWO OF A KIND. Heart Evangelista, left, and Kaycee

Fixing a broken heart

TWO YOUNG ACTRESSES talk about bouncing back from a romance gone bad. Bayella, whose close-year old romance with Dingdong Dantes ended recently, says she's "no longer single." Heart Evangelista, formerly with Jericho Rosales, on one step ahead. She's found a new love.

Amid the issues that erupted after her breakup with Dingdong, singer-actress Kaycee (not on a first-day encounter at the Assumption Mosque in Baguio.

The retreat proved crucial in her healing, she will happier. Entertainment in an exclusive interview. While there, she dabbled in painting—which she had long wanted to do.

"I painted a rainbow [and] I learned and, care of the rainbow. In the retreat was to think of seven things you are grateful for, one for each color of the rainbow," the realization. "How can I stay depressed, when blessings are coming my way?"

She has a new CD and a digital music (Love Never Yet-disaster?) in the works. She is singing the National Anthem at the Manny Pacquiao boxing match with Oscar De La Hoya in Las Vegas on Dec. 6. On Dec. 14, she moves to ABS-CBN. The manager Audie Gemora said, marks a new chapter in her life.

How are you feeling now?

It's getting a lot of love from family, friends, even strangers. Wow sounds like Callalily said: you're blooming.

So happy na.

We said you read through denial, hurt, anger, bargaining, acceptance. What was the hardest stage?

Anger. I wouldn't accept that I was single. But that's part of the journey. Every thing was, when people date get angry for me, I ended up comforting them.

Miley Cyrus lends voice to animated feature

LOS ANGELES—"WHEN I AN-swer the phone, people think it's my 19-year-old brother," admitted Miley Cyrus, who turns 16 on Sunday. The star of the hit "Hannah Montana" series said that in her husky voice which can indeed make many people think that they're not talking to a teenaged girl.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Andrew U. Netzales

Well, this girl is not your typical teenager. Asked why she was late for our press con with her in the Intex House in New York, she replied her school site in the past 24 hours: "Last night, I was in Indiana, and the network which is my hometown). My dad and I were presenters at the CMA (Country Music Association) Awards. The night before that, I was at the BMI (Broadcast Music, Inc.) Awards where my dad got an award for our song, 'Ready, Set, Don't Go.' We got home [in New York] at around 12 this morning. I did Yoga and Reiki. After that, I did some radio shows. The schedule was put so close together so I'm running a bit slower than usual since I am tired. But it was fun."

The singer-actress, who provides the voice of Penny in Disney's animated feature, "Bolt," has come a long way from Tennessee, where she was born to country music star and actor, Billy Ray Cyrus and Leticia Cyrus.

"When I first moved in LA, no one could understand a thing I said," she remembered. "You would think I was speaking another language (laughter). Sorry time I would say, 'Hello!' and they'd say, 'Hello!' What did you say?' My accent was so lame and my hair was crazy was as well. They thought I should be more girly. But that's who I am. There will always be subtleties (laughter)."

Miley is being compared by John Travolta, who stars the title character Bolt, in his "Grease" co-star Olivia Newton-John. The two actors got to co-write a song, "I Thought I Lost You," for John and sing it with him. John said he hasn't seen a star sparkle like Miley since Olivia.

"It's a great compliment to have something so sweet from John," Miley said of his fellow talent in Disney's animated tale about a dog, Bolt, a TV star who gets dropped from Hollywood to New York. "It got back to his career and to-mix. Penny (Miley). Bolt goes on a cross-country trip of adventures to return to meets a human co-ordinates, and Rhino, a TV-obsessed hamster."

"John and I worked with each other when we were doing the music video for 'I Thought I Lost You' which it wrote with one of my really good friends, Jeffrey Steele in Nashville," Miley said. "People always said if John gave me advice. I have to trust from his example. He treats everyone with such respect that I admire him as an actor, not but mostly as a person. He's a really cool dude."

Miley said composing a song for a movie was different. When she writes music for her albums, she lets her mind roam. "It was the weirdest thing writing a song for a movie, already knowing the songs and what they wanted me to write about," she revealed. "Because mostly, I do my hands be free."

MILEY Cyrus on fame: "Everyone has this perception that when you're a celebrity, you can get whatever you want. Actually, it makes things a little bit harder because some people don't want it. But you. People try to make it seem like I'm a bitch and that I can do whatever I want but it's not true at all."

PHOTO BY DARRYL CAGAS, AP

Pet dogs

Miss "Bolt" has a canine son; Miley was asked if she has pet dogs. "I have six dogs on staff as crew," she said. "We lived on 500 acres so bringing all them pets would crazy."

Which one is her favorite? "I don't want to say favorite but the one that's most important to me at the moment is my new dog, Sophie. She's a little Shih Tzu. I love her. I take her everywhere with me. She's adorable. Still shows that a dog is really a man's best friend. Dogs have loyalty, which you can't find in some people."

As for her parents, she quipped, "I change my mind every day whether I'm a daddy's girl or a mommy's girl. It depends on what's on my side that day (laughter). If mommy's being nuts, I'm a daddy's girl. If daddy's being nuts, I'm a mommy's girl. There are times when I'm caught in between. It's frustrating for my mom because she's on the harder side of business. She's the one who, if it's not positive, whether it's a script that I would like to do or if it's a song, she's like, 'You can't do that. It's not that you're a bad person, but, it's a bad personal decision. It's something that you don't want to put out into the world. It's not positive. It's not good for you.'

Tough situation

She added, "My mom gave me the hard one to date. I can save my daddy. I go, 'Daddy, she won't let me.' He has a side where he gets to be my friend. But there's also a point where he's a business person when we're working. So it's really kind of a tough situation.

"I never pump okay but so, when I get home, I scream and I yell. My mom pretends me and it's always better because I'm burning. I'm becoming a better person by wanting my mama."

Since "Hannah Montana" has become a multimillion dollar franchise, Miley was asked how to balance her family is toward her. "I realize more and more every day how much I can get away with which is like about (the much," she answered, demeaning how little with her fingers. "My mom reminds me of this daily. Everyone has this perception that when you're a celebrity, you can get whatever you want. It's not true. Actually, it makes things a lot hard or because some people don't want it like you. People make it seem like I'm a bitch and I can do whatever I want. It's not true at all."

When a reporter described her "Miley Brodie Heart" singing and acting father as a sex symbol, she laughed and snorted. "Those words do not go together," she said of "father" and "sex symbol." Laughing some more, she continued, "I am just saying, 'So weird.' I'm some people, any guy who can play guitars is immediately attractive. I guess my daddy got it. He plays guitar, writes cool-ills and

PHOTO B

Co-star John Travolta compares teen actress to Olivia Newton-John

Meralco's Message of Hope:
Planting the Seeds Today for Tomorrow's Harvest

A first of colourful flowers surround a basketball court in the far end is a beautiful chapel. All around a group of children could be seen frolicking merrily. Some were busy playing basketball while others were busy with their colors activity about the upcoming Christmas season. Such is the scene at the Gawad Kalinga Brookside Village, Barangay Mangan, Rodriguez (Rizal).

One of the most noticeable areas of this community is a colourful little building situated at the center. As might have suggested by it's colourful exterior, it is a preschool. But what might look like an early education center to children on the outside means the significance of what's going on inside. Every class ranging from grade to grade and everybody begins to learn.

Because by its mission of uplifting the lives of poor communities by providing quality early childhood education in Filipino children, Meralco - for the past three years - has partnered with Gawad Kalinga to provide the two functional communities with schools for their deserved young ones. The result of this partnership has come to be known as the Gawad Kalinga-Meralco Best School Project.

It has been more than 3 years. It's easy to point out that Meralco's participation in the Best School Project has the wonderful of Mr. Oscar Reyes and CEO Manuel Lopez all seen it. As an advocate of early childhood education, Mr. Lopez has, for years, spearheaded a variety of charitable programs to uplift the lives of children. The Meralco CEO has always believed that education is the answer to all the ills in the face of today's youth and his message has always been to urge the youth and young to learn to strive for a bright future for themselves, their communities, and their country.

Mr. Lopez's message is echo more evident than in this recently launched Message of Hope commercial. In the ad - which was shot on location at the GK Brookside Village. Mr. Lopez appears with Gawad Kalinga Founder Mr. Tony Meloto to discuss the importance of fostering hope in today's youth, especially in the coming Christmas season. "Christmas is the proper moment of the year, we only because of the light of the Christ child, but also of the smiles on the faces of our children," he says. "We at Meralco strive earnestly to serve our communities and give them hope to create a brighter future for them and their families."

It's a message that manifests itself in the many Best Schools Meralco has built in the past three years. Not only that, it's a message that resonates in particular when you see a GK community like Brookside. It's not enough to observe all the colourful houses that have been constructed since you see a GK community like Brookside. It's not enough to observe all the colourful houses that have been constructed since you see a GK community like Brookside. It's not enough to observe all the colourful houses. For basketball courts and there this Meralco Best Schools and say 'we did that.' The true measure of the whole project's success lies in the children in this community. When you go inside the Best School, you'll see for yourself that the community has given something more than just love and shelter.

The partnership between Gawad Kalinga and Meralco was borne out of a common commitment in improving the way of life of many of the communities here in Mega Manila. Similarly, Meralco also shares the belief of Gawad Kalinga to provide the efficient of providing quality education and learning to every child. Including those in depressed communities. This organizational belief that Meralco and Gawad Kalinga sprouts and inspires them to strive for a bright future for themselves, their communities, and their country.

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Since 2002, this partnership has developed into a remarkable relationship. Most Meralco has expanded Meralco Brook Mega Manila a total of 6 schools, especially to all the young children who would be otherwise spend their early childhood languishing in the streets. Through the Gawad Kalinga-Meralco Best School Project, these children are given the opportunity to learn and their parents. As shown by Brook Bagong Silang, Brookside Village, Magandang Buhay, Brookside Village, Magandang Buhay, Brookside Village, Magandang Buhay